

# Text Amendment Request(s): Chapter 7, Volume 2 (07-01 to 07-11)

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

**Description:** Quality of life is central to the economic success of this city and its ability to retain and attract residents. Excellent parks, recreational resources for adults as well as children and youth, and access to water and nature are key ingredients to the quality of life. Chapter 7 focuses on protecting, expanding, maintaining and enhancing those resources. To accomplish these 15 goals, each with recommended strategies, actions were developed for implementation over various time frames with the assistance of both public and private partnerships. This part of the staff report both reports on the progress of these goals and evaluates the relevance of new recommendations for the continued management of these resources.

**Assessment:** Some of the previous recommended actions in the Master Plan have been accomplished as documented by the submissions by the various departments responsible for implementation. Other actions are and will continue to be ongoing throughout the life of the plan.

**Requests:** As required, the City Planning Commission solicited proposals for the Master Plan text amendments from the general public, as well as various City and other governmental agencies and departments. The table below is a summary of the updated information associated with the outstanding actions found in the Master Plan in addition to new requests for consideration to be included in the revised updated Master Plan.

Request	Applicant	Chapter	Subject
Text 07-01	Arts Council of New Orleans	V. 2 Ch. 7	Integrating art into public spaces
Text 07-02	ENONAC	V. 2 Ch. 7	Providing parks in underserved areas
Text 07-03	Urban Conservancy	V. 2 Ch. 7	Community participation in parks and recreation planning
Text 07-04	NOLA Squared	V. 2 Ch. 7	Restoring neighborhood parks
Text 07-05	Sustaining Our Urban Landscape	V. 2 Ch. 7	Improving the tree canopy
Text 07-06	Councilmember Cantrell - NOLA Parks for All	V. 2 Ch. 7	Natural areas, open space and recreation areas
Text 07-07	MaCCNO	V. 2 Ch. 7	Add cultural programming to recreation centers
Text 07-08	Greater New Orleans Water Collaborative	V. 2 Ch. 7	Tree planting, stormwater management, access to waterfronts

Request	Applicant	Chapter	Subject
Text 07-09	Mayor's Office	V. 2 Ch. 7	Revise conditions, goals and strategies in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Chapter
Text 07-10	City Planning Commission	V. 2 Ch. 7	Numerous revisions throughout the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Chapter
Text 07-11	Committee for a Better New Orleans	V. 2 Ch. 7	Change the reference for community participation from the Neighborhood Participation Plan (NPP) to the Community Participation Plan.

- A. What general and specific text changes were included in the requests made for the petitioned chapter(s)?

Text 07-01 Applicant's Request

The Arts Council of New Orleans proposal seeks to integrate art into park and public spaces while including public input. They proposed the following five (a, b, c, d, and e) requests to accomplish this.

*Request a).*

Amend language in Action 4.A.2 to page 7.9 and 7.20:

“Utilize artistic interventions in the course of safe walking routes”

Add strategy 4.B to page 7.9 and 7.20

“Acknowledgement of community and cultural assets in public space through public art + design intervention”

Actions

How: Work with communities to define what is useful in a park (public) space through community processes

Who: Arts Council New Orleans; P&P, DPW

When: Medium Term”

*Request d).*

Volume 2, Chapter 7, 6.B pages 7.10 and 7.23

“Incentivize private owners to develop short to medium term public creative common space throughout neighborhoods.”

Who: Utilize zoning and permitting levers to encourage the creative use of lots that are underutilized

Who: CPC, Chief Accounting's Office, NORA, Arts Council  
When: Medium Term”

*Request c).*

Amend language in goal 11, pages 7.11 and 7.26

More effective coordination and cost-effectiveness management of parks, public art (civic spaces), recreation resources and programs”

*Request d).*

Amend language in recommendation 12.A.4 to pages 7.11 and 7.27

“Creatively survey users of parks and recreation through creative place-making practices, on a regular basis”

Add Recommended Action 12.A, pages 7.11 and 7.27

“Utilize creative place-making to generate user information and engagement”

Who: Arts Council  
When: First five years”

*Request e).*

Amend language in Action 5.A page 7.12

“~~Provide~~ Utilize the arts to create user-friendly community driven communication, including an interactive website, an annual report, consistent signage and similar efforts.”

Add action 15.A.2 to page 7.12 and 7.29-7.30

“Utilize the create assets of the city to provide art and design that enhances public spaces. Work with the cities designated arts organizations to develop the creative way-finding and signage initiatives throughout the city.

Who: Arts Council  
When: Medium Term  
Resources: Staff Time”

Add rational to action 15.A.2, page 7.29-7.30

“New Orleans is an organically creative place that uses public space in a variety of ways to enhance the living conditions of its residents. The city can be advantaged through the active inclusion of artists and designers in the more formal process of participation and public space development.”

### Text 07-02 Applicant's Request

The ENONAC proposes that closed parks and vacant city-owned lots be used to provide recreational opportunities in areas that do not have parks within walking distance of residents. They proposed the following three (a, b, and c) requests to assist in resolving this issue.

#### *Request a).*

Construct new neighborhood parks in underserved areas, especially on parcels that were designated for parks but were never built.

Problem: There are residences in New Orleans who do not have a park within walking distance of their homes. But there are publicly-owned parcels available for new parks.

Recommendation: Amend Volume 2, Ch. 7 Green Infrastructure: Parks, Open Space and Recreation pg 7.9

Goal: Make changes to the strategy and recommended actions for Goal #4 A park within walking distance - approximately one-third mile – of every New Orleans resident.

Strategy: Change Recommended Action #3 under 4.A into Recommended Strategy 4.B.

Action: For new strategy 4.B add Recommended Action #1 as follows:

How: Build new parks for underserved areas by using vacant, publicly-owned parcels – especially parcels which were intended, though never developed, for parks and/or community facilities.

Who: - Parks & Parkways; NORDC; RER

When: - 2016-2020

Resources: - CDBG; NORD Foundation

#### *Request b).*

Restore vacant neighborhood parks

Problem: Eleven years after hurricane Katrina, some neighborhood parks have not been restored or returned to their previous activity level.

Recommendation: Amend Volume 2, Chapter 7 Green Infrastructure: Parks, Open Space and Recreation; pg 7.10

Goal: Add action item for Goal #4

Strategy: Add another action item for proposed Strategy 4.B.

Action: For new strategy 4.B add Recommended Action #2 as follows:

How: Restore vacant or closed neighborhood parks in underserved areas, returning them to their previous activity level i.e. re-establishing sports teams.

Who: Parks & Parkways; NORDC

When: 2017-2020

Resources: D-CDBG (if available); NORD Foundation

*Request c).*

Provide recreational facilities/attractions such as fountain/spray parks and par course equipment

Problem: New recreational amenities are needed to encourage more children and teens to use parks and recreation centers.

Recommendation: Amend Volume 2, Chapter 7 Green Infrastructure: Parks, Open Space and Recreation; pg 7.11

Goal: Amend the actions for Goal #9

Strategy: Add an action for Recommended Strategy 9.A.

Action:

How:

New item #2 (re-number the subsequent items)

Provide fountain/spray parks and par course equipment as recreational amenities for children and teens.

Who: NORDC

When: 2017-2020

Resources: Existing park land; NORD Foundation; fees, where appropriate"

*Text 07-03 Applicant's Request*

The Urban Conservancy seeks to provide community participation in parks and recreation planning. The Urban Conservancy proposed the following three (a-c) requests to accomplish this.

Amendment to Volume 2, Chapter 7 - pp. 7.27-7.28 Community participation in decision making about parks and recreation. To replace the existing 12.A-C

*Request a).*

12.A: Prepare and update a full parks and recreation master plan regularly.

A full parks and recreation plan separate from the master plan should be updated every 10 years. As of 2016, this process is overdue as the last Parks and Open Space master plan was completed in 2002. A full update should occur as soon as possible and every 10 years, with an amendment process every five years to continue to guide decision making about the park and recreation system. This plan should include input from periodic assessments of park and recreation users, as well as a substantial public input process that includes public meetings in all planning districts and a stakeholder advisory committee that includes agency and resident representatives. The plan should include overall priorities for the parks and recreation system and should provide a detailed, facilities-based assessment and plan for achieving the individual goals and objectives described in this Master Plan document. It should include a full assessment of parks and recreation facilities available, and provide priorities and locations where additional facilities are needed to provide equitable access to park facilities across the City of New Orleans.

Recommended Actions

1. Update the plan every 10 years; conduct an amendment process five years after the adoption of each updated plan.

Who: CPC, working with NORDC, Parks and Parkways, Audubon Commission, Board of Directors of City Park, National Park Service, French Market Corporation (Managers of Crescent Park), any other managing entities for parks

When: Every five years at opening stage of Parks & Recreation Plan update or amendment process

Resources: Staff time (for update and amendment process); possible outside consultant and \$500-600K per update (for update only)

2. Conduct a systematic assessment of park users before each full Parks and Recreation Master Plan update and each amendment process, in order to inform the update and amendment processes. This assessment should incorporate on-site observation of park and recreation spaces at multiple times of the week and multiple times of day.

Who: Mayor's Office of Innovation to partner with CPC and park provider agencies to develop technology and manage and supervise park operator agencies and volunteers; possible outside consultant

When: Every five years at opening stage of Parks & Recreation Plan update or amendment process

Resources: Staff time for volunteer management; general fund; volunteer support

3. Conduct a full assessment of park facilities as part of each Parks and Recreation Master Plan update and recommend needed facility changes for each park location.

Who: CPC with all park provider agencies; possibly with assistance from outside consultant

When: Every five years at opening stage of Parks & Recreation Plan update or amendment process

Resources: Staff time; funding for possible outside consultant

4. Include a substantive public input process for each Parks and Recreation Master Plan update and amendment process that includes a public meeting in every Planning District to gather input, a stakeholder advisory committee guiding the process that includes both park owners/operators and residents, and a final town hall to present a late draft of the plan and gather final revisions.

Who: CPC; possible assistance from outside consultant

When: Every five years at opening stage of Parks & Recreation Plan update or amendment process

Resources: Staff time; funding for outside consultant

5. Ensure that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is consistent with Volume 2, Chapter 7 and Volume 2, Chapter 14 of the Plan for the 21st Century, and makes actionable recommendations that allow the realization of key Plan for the 21st Century priorities.

Who: CPC; possible assistance from outside consultant

When: Ongoing

Resources: Staff time; funding for outside consultant

*Request b).*

12.B: Require that all Capital Improvement Plans demonstrate consistency with Chapter 7 of this Master Plan, as amended, and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, in order to be approved. Establish a streamlined public participation process that allows public input into each agency's Capital Improvement Plan.

Each year, the City Planning Commission receives capital project proposals from various City agencies. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes the sources of funding for each project - such as general obligation bonds, State capital outlay funds, or federal funds - and the amount of funding to be spent in each year for the next five years. The City Planning Commission holds public hearings with each agency to gain further information about the proposals and to obtain input from the public, and determines whether or not each proposal is consistent with the City's Master Plan, which is required under the City Charter. Following the hearings, the City Planning

Commission makes final recommendations regarding which projects should be funded over the following five-year period. NORDC, New Orleans City Park, the Audubon Commission, and Parks & Parkways all participate in the CIP process.

When the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan is completed, the CPC should require consistency with both the City's Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan before making final determinations on project funding. In addition, the CIP process for park provider agencies should be made more transparent by requiring that representatives from all park provider agencies hold a joint public meeting at least 30 days prior to the official public hearings to accept input from the public on needed CIP priorities for park space. Finally, the dates and times of the final CIP public hearings involving all park and recreation agencies should take place on the same date, and should be publicized via the City's Neighborhood Engagement Office (NEO), who should communicate the date and times of these CIP meetings with all registered neighborhood associations and Friends of Parks groups at least 30 days in advance of the meetings.

#### Recommended Actions

1. Require consistency with both the City's Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan before making final determinations on project funding.

Who: CPC

When: Ongoing during annual CIP process

Resources: Staff time

While the City's Master Plan establishes general priorities for the parks and recreation system, the completed Parks and Recreation Master Plan will provide more concrete recommendations about how resources should be allocated and prioritized throughout the park system. This makes the Parks and Recreation Master Plan a more ideal tool for determining whether proposed CIP projects are consistent with the City's and the public's priorities for public open space.

2. Enhance transparency around capital improvements within the City's park and recreation system by requiring all park owners/operators who currently participate in the CIP process to hold a public joint meeting at least 30 days prior to final CIP public hearings in order to present draft CIP concepts and accept feedback from the public. This meeting must be held at a time outside of normal working hours in an accessible location.



Who: CPC

When: Ongoing during annual CIP process

Resources: Staff time

3. The CPC should improve the public's ability to comment in final CIP hearings by setting all park agencies' meetings on the same date and working with the Neighborhood Engagement Office (NEO) to send notice of the date 30 days in advance to all registered neighborhood associations and Friends of Parks groups.

Who: CPC, Neighborhood Engagement Office

When: Ongoing during annual CIP process

Resources: Staff time

4. The final CIP for all park agencies should be adopted into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan on an annual basis.

Who: CPC

When: Ongoing during annual CIP process

Resources: Staff time

*Request c).*

12.C: Require that individual park provider agencies either complete and abide by individual Programming and Design Plans (developed with public input) for their park facilities that include clear, specific design and programming recommendations including a land use map, or submit all projects in the Capital Improvement Plan that exceed \$100,000 in total cost or 10,000 square feet in area to a design review process that includes three public meetings.

In order to ensure that the public has understanding and ability to comment on other objectives written in this Master Plan, such as ensuring no net loss of park space; balancing passive and active uses of park space; and providing recreational opportunities suited to the demographics of surrounding neighborhoods, the public must be able to have an early understanding of proposed changes to existing park space and to provide substantive comment on the design and location of these proposed investments and alterations. This must be balanced with park agencies' need to make improvements without constant meetings. Two alternative pathways for meeting this need for public input are described within the Recommended Actions.

**Recommended Actions**

1. Park agencies including NORDC, Parks and Parkways, New Orleans City Park, and the Audubon Commission may complete and abide by individual Programming and Design Plans for their park facilities, in order to avoid an extensive individual design review process for

major investments. In order to solicit public input on these Programming and Design Plans, park users and community members should be invited to a series of meetings: the first to gather information on issues and concerns; the second to present a conceptual version of the plan for discussion; and the third to present a final draft of the detailed plan for discussion.

Who: All park provider agencies; CPC to review and approve

When: Ongoing during annual CIP process

Resources: Staff time

All Programming and Design Plans shall be completed by 2019 and shall include clear, specific design and programming recommendations for the entirety of the park facilities under each agency's control. Individual design review as described in Recommended Action 2 will not be required for projects that comply with the Programming and Design Plan, but will be required for all projects over \$100,000 or 10,000 square feet in area that do not comply with or are not mentioned in the Programming and Design Plan. The CPC will review these plans for completeness and compliance with the City's Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Parks & Recreation Master Plan and all individual Programming & Design Plans shall be made available online at the CPC website.

2. All projects over \$100,000 or 10,000 square feet in area in an agency's CIP that do not comply with or are not mentioned in an adopted Programming and Design Plan shall undergo a public design review process. The process shall consist of three meetings: the first to gather information on issues and concerns; the second to present a conceptual design for discussion; and the third to present the detailed design for discussion.

Who: Parks and Parkways, NORDC, New Orleans City Park, Audubon Commission; CPC to review and certify public process

When: Ongoing during annual CIP process

Resources: Staff time

#### Text 07-04 Applicant's Request

NOLA Squared seeks to provide additional mechanisms to restore neighborhood parks. They proposed the following two (a and b) requests to accomplish this.

##### *Request a).*

Insert the following into Volume 2, Chapter 7, under heading "Park System" between item #7 and #8 on page 7.1

GOAL	POLICIES FOR DECISION MAKERS
7i Restore, redesign, reconstruct, and maintain	7iA. Research the history and design of neighborhood parks neighborhood parks
	7iB. Develop plans to restore, redesign, reconstruct, and maintain neighborhood parks
	7iC. Create public/private partnerships to implement plans to restore, redesign, reconstruct, and maintain neighborhood parks

*Request b).*

On page 7.10, insert the following between items #7 and #8:

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
	7iA. Research the history and design of neighborhood parks neighborhood parks	1. Inventory neighborhood parks as a reference for fundraising and promotional activities
		2. Gather new research and coordinate existing histories of each individual parks, including: a. The history of each park with the biographical data of significant individuals involved in the design or creation of the park and its surrounding neighborhood; b. The role of each park in the social, economic and environmental development of its neighborhood; c. The architectural and horticultural styles that make each park unique; d. An analysis of any existing original landscape designs, and any recently implemented or proposed restorations
	7iB. Develop plans to restore, redesign, reconstruct, and	1. Prepare an existing conditions survey that assesses original and existing plant materials which may

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
	maintain neighborhood parks	impact stabilization and/or redesign of the park
		2. Hold workshops on park usage, restoration, redesign, reconstruction, and maintenance with current residents and commercial property owners
		3. Prepare a preliminary design that takes into account Smart Growth principles and sustainability issues, and includes a discussion of storm water management priorities
		4. Develop a preliminary budget for restoration, redesign, and reconstruction of each park
		5. Outline of a 20-year maintenance plan for each park.
	7iC. Create public/private partnerships to implement plans to restore, redesign, reconstruct, and maintain neighborhood parks	1. Establish a not-for-profit, operating under an authorizing MOU with the City of New Orleans, to develop a series of partnerships among City, Parish, State, Federal, Private Foundation, Corporate Foundation and Corporate Resources to restore, redesign, reconstruct and maintain parks
		2. Implement plans to restore, redesign, and reconstruct parks using an annual 'phased' approach, taking into consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Extant plant materials, their preservation and nurturance;</li> <li>b. The addition of lower maintenance plant materials;</li> <li>c. Recreational and open space use priorities (i.e.,</li> </ul>

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
		passive and active recreational uses); d. Zoning and planning changes impacting the nature of each adjacent neighborhood; e. The traditional character and history of each neighborhood
		3. Restore, redesign and reconstruct neighborhood parks with the City's approval and endorsement
		4. Develop partnerships to support the funding of a maintenance endowment for the City's neighborhood parks based upon a City-approved 20-year maintenance plan, developed as outlined above

Text 07-05 Applicant's Request

Sustaining Our Urban Landscape seek to increase the tree canopy of the City of New Orleans. They proposed the following two (a and b) requests to accomplish this.

Request a).

Vol 2, Ch 7, Green Infrastructure,

Narrative Recommendations

By green infrastructure, we refer not only to public parks and open space, but to a system and scale of landscape features that retain and infiltrate stormwater. Because these features mitigate flood risk, slow/halt subsidence, and save energy, amongst many other benefits, they should be incorporated into public and private development. The Master Plan should include measurable green infrastructure goals, including goals for the retrofitting of existing development. As trees play a vital role in green infrastructure and are the most affordable form of green infrastructure to implement, the language around protecting valuable trees and creating funding mechanisms to plant new trees should be enhanced. The term “heritage trees” should be introduced throughout the document to indicate valuable (usually native water loving trees) trees with a caliper of 24” or more.

In addition, the city can implement public green infrastructure projects more successfully if departmental functions are explained and responsibilities delineated.

Request b).

page 7.6	Goal 2: Restoration and expansion of the city's urban forest to reach 50 per- cent tree canopy by 2030	Strategy: 2.A. Promote tree planting on both public and private property.	Change 2A to: Promote tree preservation and tree planting on both public and private properties.
			Add: 2A.10: Create a no net loss of tree canopy strategy for public and private property.
			Add: 2A.11: Establish criteria for "Heritage Trees" to inform future development.

Text 07-06 Applicant's Request

Councilmember Cantrell on behalf of NOLA Parks for All seeks to retained and expanded parks and green spaces while encouraging public participation. They proposed the following three (a-c) requests to accomplish this.

I. VOLUME 2 CHAPTER 7, P7.1 & 8-9

*Request a).*

GOAL 3. A commitment to no ~~net~~ loss<sup>1</sup> of public parkland, and to a strict limitation on conversion of open green space to specialized uses or to intensive and commercial uses.

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<sup>1</sup> The Master Plan explains the concept of no net loss of public parkland as follows:

“Cities that give up park land end up regretting it. A robust network of green space and parks is a critical asset for quality of life and urban success. It helps retain existing residents and attracts new ones. When cities looking for “free land” establish other public facilities on park land, they are chipping away at the community’s overall inventory of park land. Often, it is more costly or otherwise more difficult to acquire new park land. For this reason, it is important to make sure that, at a minimum, the city maintain a commitment to keeping the same overall amount of park land that it has at present. In addition, as needed, additional park resources (whether directly owned by the city or by others) should be made available in areas of the city that are currently under served.” *MP, Vol 2, Chap 7 p 7.17.*

While the principle of “no net loss” provides some protection to the overall amount of parkland, that principle could be seen as condoning the sale of park land or the intensification of uses in existing parks, so long as land in some other part of the city is substituted. This is a slippery slope. Green space in the most-

## POLICIES FOR DECISION MAKERS/RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

- 3.A. Establish systems to ensure that the City does not lose acreage dedicated to parks and that existing open green space in parks is not converted to specialized uses, such as golf courses and stadiums, or to intensive and commercial uses, such as restaurants and event facilities.<sup>2</sup>

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Require enhanced public review, such as the conditional use process, of disposition of public parkland and apply any funds from sales of parkland to acquisition of new parkland.
2. Create a Parks Trust Fund within the Capital Projects Fund to receive funds for acquisition and improvement of parkland.
3. Evaluate any public property identified for sale for suitability as a park or recreation site.
4. Require enhanced public review, such as the conditional use process, of changes of use of public parkland that would limit access by the general public and casual park patrons or be more intensive or commercial than the existing use.<sup>3</sup>
5. Create separate future land use categories of Open Space and Recreational areas.<sup>4</sup>

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used parks would likely have the most appeal to developers or municipal officials as sites for conversion to intensive or commercial uses. Carving out green space from those parks on the grounds that parcels in other parts of the city could be “substituted” for them should be discouraged. The preferable policy is no loss of public parkland, with any exceptions to that rule being subject to the strictest scrutiny.

<sup>2</sup> The principle that parkland should not be sold or that any such sales should require strict scrutiny addresses only part of the problem. What is difference between (1) the City selling a piece of a public park to a private party who wants to build a restaurant on it and (2) the City or the entities governing parks deciding to operate a restaurant in a public park themselves? In both cases, public green space has been diminished. Thus, the change of use of public green space to a specialized use or to a more intensive and commercial use, even without the sale of public green space, should be prohibited or subject to the strictest scrutiny.

<sup>3</sup> If this change is accepted, it will require revisions in pages 7.17 - 20, to include, alongside the axiom that parkland should not be disposed of without public hearing, similar protections when parkland is proposed to be converted to a specialized use or to be converted to some intensive or commercial use. The germ of this is already contained at pages 7.18 -19: “. . . the Planning Commission . . . should establish a set of criteria and a deliberative process before any parkland is designated to be *taken out of park and recreation use.*”

<sup>4</sup> See Addendum 2 for PFA’s recommendation for two new Future Land Use (“FLU”) category definitions to be included in Vol 2, Chap 14, Sec C. PFA recommends that the CPC and the Council commence a process to replace the existing category of “Parkland and Open Space” with two new FLU categories, “Recreational Space” and “Open Space.”

*Request b).*

GOAL 4 A park within walking distance – approximately 1/3 mile – of every New Orleans resident

#### POLICIES FOR DECISION MAKERS/RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

- 4.A. Balance passive and active uses of parks and public spaces.<sup>5</sup> Increase park and other green space and make parks and green space more accessible to all residents.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Provide open fields and tree-shaded areas, walking paths for walking, running, biking, and/or similar uses, seating, water fountains and similar low impact amenities, and programming (activities such as concerts, festivals, etc.)<sup>6</sup> in parks and neutral grounds ~~that are not managed by NORD~~<sup>7</sup> in order to ~~ensure that residents can and will~~ enable and encourage residents to use them.
2. Make improvements in safe walking routes to parks.
3. Prioritize creation of new parks or playgrounds for underserved areas where there is no park within walking distance and for access to resources of citywide importance, such as the waterfront.
4. Establish systems to use vacant public lots and other public properties, such as schools, as full time or part time neighborhood parks.

*Request c).*

GOAL 5 More public access to waterfronts

#### POLICIES FOR DECISION MAKERS/RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

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<sup>5</sup> The policy of balancing passive and active uses does not appear to be related to the goal of providing parks in close proximity to all residents.

<sup>6</sup> Parks and green spaces can and should be used at times for concerts and festivals so long as no damage to the parks and green space occurs and the programmatic use is not so frequent or intensive as to clash with normal park use. Parks and green spaces should be created and maintained primarily for citizens seeking green space for passive uses and not become overly utilized for intensive and commercial purposes.

<sup>7</sup> To the extent that NORD properties can be used for passive activities without interfering with NORD programming, these properties should be made to do double duty, such as providing fields for picnics or paths for walkers.



- 5.A. Create parks and public spaces along the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain and ensure that river and lake access is kept open to the general public and not dominated by specialized use facilities, particularly those which could be placed in other areas.<sup>8</sup>

#### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

4. Zone or regulate waterfront public property to allow unprogrammed open green space to predominate. Require enhanced public review, such as the conditional use process, of changes of use of waterfront property that would limit access to the general public or be more intensive or commercial than the existing use.

#### Text 07-07 Applicant's Request

MaCCNO proposes to add cultural programming to recreation centers. Their request follows.

#### *Request a).*

Add Cultural Programming to Recreation Centers

Location: Volume 2, Chapter 7, Green Infrastructure, Goal 9A, page 7.26

Add the following section:

9.A.6 "Promote and provide a space for community led cultural programming in all city-run recreation and community centers"

Who: NORD, cultural organizations, culture bearers

When: ongoing

Resources: Fees, where appropriate

Neighborhood based cultural traditions are an integral part of the City's identity and a driving factor in youth development. Community led cultural programming held by either cultural organizations or respected culture bearers will be given a space in all city run recreation and community centers, with priority given to organizations and individuals from the neighborhood where the center is located.

#### Text 07-08 Applicant's Request

Greater New Orleans Water Collaborative proposal addresses tree planting, stormwater management and access to waterfronts. Their requests (a-j) follow.

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<sup>8</sup> There is a limited amount of waterfront property. Much of the City's riverfront must, for reasons of security, commerce and transportation, not be open to the general public. Thus, the few places on the riverfront where public access is even possible should be kept open and unprogrammed. Activities which can be situated elsewhere, such as athletic stadiums, should not be situated on the riverfront.

## Volume 2 – Implementation, Chapter 7: Green Infrastructure

Summary Volume 2, Chapter 7 focuses on “green infrastructure” defined as “New Orleans’ system of parks, open spaces, and recreation resources;” along with “the network of parks, tree-lined streets, bike trails and pedestrian paths, river and stream corridors, waterfronts, and urban wilds of the city.”

Note, however, that the term “green infrastructure” as used by EPA and other entities refers to a class of landscape installations that allow stormwater retention and infiltration. While this section details goals and recommended actions for assuring green spaces improve recreation access and other quality of life aims, this chapter does not fully address the value of the city’s green spaces to reduce stormwater related flooding, runoff pollution, or subsidence.

### *Request a)*

“GNOWC’s overarching recommendation is that the principles of the City’s Urban Water Plan and other water management related policy aims be incorporated into the goals and recommended actions of this chapter.”

GOAL 2.A, P.7.15-16 Promote tree planting on both public and private property.

#### Recommended Actions

1. Prepare a tree-canopy GIS layer and analyze it with appropriate tree-cover software to track values.

Who: Parks and Parkways; City GIS unit; Louisiana Urban Forestry Council (LUFC)

When: Medium term

Resources: La. Department of Agriculture and Forestry; Urban and Community Grants; Alliance for Community Trees Grant; Chevron Grants

2. Prepare a street tree master plan to plant street trees throughout the city.

Who: Parks and Parkways; City GIS unit; Louisiana Urban Forestry Council (LUFC)

When: Medium term

Resources: La. Department of Agriculture and Forestry; Urban and Community Grants; Alliance for Community Trees Grant; Chevron Grants

Public streetscape projects and commercial or mixed-use development or redevelopment projects should be required to provide street trees, where feasible.

*Request b)*

“In addition to specifying the location of tree wells and landscape species, design documents for these projects should demonstrate adequate root growth area and rainwater supply available for each tree. When appropriate, technologies such as tree cells and pervious paving systems should be used to create conditions in which street trees thrive.”

Street tree criteria should be updated for different kinds of streets, appropriate species, planting and maintenance, and so on. The city should also have an updated and complete inventory of all street trees in GIS, which will help in maintenance and replacement of trees.

3. Promote tree preservation and planting on private property.

Who: Parks and Parkways; City GIS unit; Louisiana Urban Forestry Council (LUFC)

When: Medium term

Resources: La. Department of Agriculture and Forestry; Urban and Community Grants; Alliance for Community Trees Grant; Chevron Grants

“Standards for new development should include requirements for planting trees, shrubs and ground cover, where appropriate. Large trees should be preferably preserved, but if they must be removed, several new trees should be planted to replace them.”

*Request c)*

“A compensatory mitigation program should be established to guarantee replanting of tree caliper equal or greater to that lost. This model could fund offsite plantings when appropriate. It could also be adapted to encompass heritage trees on properties not slated for development. Methods to help provide and promote tree preservation and planting can include continuing the ReLeaf program already operated by Parkway Partners and creation of community based or city led tree nurseries in vacant lots, with seedlings distributed in neighborhoods.”

*Request d)*

- “6. Inventory the city’s public trees and overall tree canopy. Identify as “heritage trees” those trees of native species, significant size (e.g. top 20% by caliper), located along public corridors. Use additional criteria as appropriate. Consider additional protections for qualifying trees and appropriate incentives for their retention.”

Who: Parks and Parkways

When: Medium term

Resources: La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry and Community Grants; Alliance for Community Tree Grants; Chevron Grants

#### GOAL 2.D, P.7.17

Establish storm water management planting practices in public green spaces.

#### Recommended Actions

1. Replace most lawn areas in neutral grounds and street sides with bioswales, plantings and appropriate green infrastructure, when necessary amending the soil to accommodate increased rainwater detention.

Who: Parks and Parkways; S&WB; DPW; nonprofit partners

When: Medium term

Resources: Staff education and training; grants for public awareness; grow plants in nursery

#### *Request e)*

“Develop a comprehensive design and investment plan for the Departments of Public Works and Parks & Parkways. This plan should detail stormwater best management practices for neutral grounds, intersections, rights of way, etc. as well as long-term maintenance protocols for the prescribed green infrastructure installations. The plan should include specific project commitments and establish new default designs for road or utility projects that disrupt neutral grounds. It should be completed within two years of amending the Master Plan accordingly.”

#### GOAL 3.A.1, p.7.18

Because it is often difficult to acquire land to create new parks, the overall amount of city land devoted to parks and open space should, at a minimum, remain the same. That means that no park land should be transferred to another use or sold without provision for the same amount or more land being designated as new park land. Adapting park land for improved stormwater management through landscape design is not to be considered a new use, as this is an historic function of open space in the city. However, development of buildings, parking lots and other structures atop publicly owned open space, ought to be offset by the acquisition of new publicly owned open space. State Act 378 provides that designated park land (what constitutes “designation” is not described) cannot be taken out of park uses without the written approval of 70 percent of the property owners within a radius of 300 feet of the park.

Any park land sold or taken for other uses, including other municipal uses, must be replaced by land with similar park, recreation or conservation value

in terms of usefulness and location. When open space is developed for a beneficial or recreational use (e.g. park office, rec center, etc.), its conservation value may be lost or degraded. In such cases, the city should seek to replace the acreage in order to retain a net balance of public open space. If the land is not available, funds must be deposited in a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund or similar dedicated account (described below) that would be sufficient to buy replacement land at fair market value.

#### GOAL 3.A.3, p.7.19

Establish systems to ensure that the city does not lose acreage dedicated to parks

#### Recommended Actions

3. Evaluate any public property identified for sale to identify suitability as a park or recreation site.

Who: Parks and Parkways; City Attorney; City Council; S&WB; DPW; NORA

When: Medium term

Resources: Staff time

#### *Request f)*

“Before public land is put up for sale, it should be reviewed by the CPC, NORD, and Parks and Parkways to see if it is suitable for an identified park or recreation need in that location or for stormwater retention to benefit neighborhood drainage or flood-risk reduction.”

#### GOAL 5, p.7.21 More public access to waterfronts

For a city surrounded by water, New Orleans has a limited amount of public open space at its waterfronts. More access to the waterfront has been a goal for almost 20 years.

#### *Request g)*

“While some progress has been made, great potential remains. In addition to the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain, New Orleans’ bayous, canals and wetlands represent important water assets. Landscape features for water management, such as along Lafitte Greenway and in NORA Stormwater Lots, are similarly valuable. Linking people to these water assets with trails, pocket parks, overlooks, etc. and linking these assets together with greenways, bike lanes, pedestrian bridges, etc. enhances quality of life. In many cases, such linkages can be paired with green infrastructure to recharge groundwater and improve water quality.”

*Request h)*

5.A Create parks and public spaces along the Mississippi River, Lake Pontchartrain “and other waterways and wetlands”

Recommended Action

3. Enhance the amenity value of canals and drainage assets when possible.

Who: Levee Board; OFICD; S&WB; DPW; Parks and Parkways

When: First five years

Resources: Levee resources and capital budget

*Request i)*

Today, most of the canals and drainage facilities in New Orleans are unattractive, if they are visible at all, and residents experience water more as a threat than as an amenity. The Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan calls for the daylighting of some existing canals and maintenance of higher water levels within canals to reduce the dewatering of soils, which is known to aggravate subsidence. “In addition to making sure that any canals function correctly for water management, it is important that they be designed as an attractive addition to the city’s open space. Likewise, a new generation of green infrastructure drainage assets should contribute to urban design goals.” The Sewerage and Water Board must also be involved in any analysis of canals and drainage assets to ensure safety and system performance.

*Request j)*

- 4\* Link existing water assets.

Who: CPC, S&WB, Office of Coastal and Environmental Affairs, NORA, Levee boards, etc.

When: Medium term

Resources: General fund, private foundations, federal grants

Connecting water assets to open space and each other through trails, bike lanes, pedestrian bridges, etc. not only improves accessibility but also fosters stewardship and creates new opportunities for economic investment in adjacent parcels. Furthermore these linkages can provide valuable forums for interpretive signage and educational events that enhance citizens understanding of water systems and their own role in water management. Crescent Park, Lafitte Greenway and Lakeshore Drive provide useful models that should be adapted to suit the water assets in East New Orleans and Algiers. Interconnectivity among these waterside corridors should be a long-range goal.

### Text 07-09 Applicant's Request

The Mayor's Office seeks to update and revise the conditions, goals and strategies found throughout Chapter 7 in order to continue to provide equitable land use decisions and resilient practices and policies to the citizens of New Orleans. The departments' proposed edits to Chapter 7 can be reviewed in their online application.

### Text 07-10 Applicant's Request

The City Planning Commission (CPC) proposed amendments to Chapter 7 to remove "Green Infrastructure" from the title and throughout the Chapter 7, correct typos, inconsistencies, and make minor updates. To accomplish this CPC submitted the following table listing their requests.

Chapter	Section/Page	Specific Text Request
Chapter 7	7.1	Delete "Green Infrastructure:" from the title and wherever it appears in this context.
Fact Sheet - Parks, Open Space and Recreation	7.3	Under "Fact Sheet" after "10 recreation centers pre-Katrina", correct "restoreda" to be spelled "restored"
Findings	7.4	Under "Findings", after "New Orleans lots approximately 100,000 trees as a result of Hurricane Katrina", insert "About 50,000 new trees have been planted as of 2016." Delete "New Orleans currently has few designated walking or biking trails" and insert in lieu thereof "New Orleans has developed a number of new walking and biking paths, but more are needed."
Introduction	7.5	Change "city had approximately 3,000 acres of park land in 2009" to "city had approximately 4,340 acres of parkland in 2015" OR "city had approximately 3,000 acres of park land in 2009, a number that grew to 4,340 acres in 2015"
	7.11	Renumber Recommended Action 12.C.2 to 12.C.1
	7.11	In 12.B.1, amend Recommendations to indicate that NORDC is the organization for receiving community input and they have a system. Remove "CPC working through NPP organization to be created" from Who column.
	7.16	In 2.A.5, delete the word "Require" and insert in lieu thereof "Maintain". Mark time frame as "complete"

Chapter	Section/Page	Specific Text Request
	7.17	In 2.D, add Actions to reflect our more robust stormwater program and goals of the Resilience Plan
	7.18	In 3.A.1, update text pertaining to State Act 378 and requirements for park land proposed to be taken out of use.
	7.19	In 3.A.3, add "NORDC" to the list of "Who".
	7.22	In Goal 6, replace "green streets" with "green connectors" to better reflect the context of this chapter.
	7.27	In 12.B, delete "CPC, working through NPP organization to be developed" and insert in lieu thereof: "NORDC, Parks & Parkways with neighborhood/community participation"
		In 12.C., delete references to the "City Planning Commission." Insert "NORDC" where missing from narrative.
	7.28	In 13.A, and universal, all references to "NORD" should be changed to "NORDC"
	7.29	In 13.A.3, correct "greens pace" to "green space"

*Text 07-11 Applicant's Request*

Community for a Better New Orleans request the “NPP” reference in the Master Plan which stated “NPP system to be developed” and “NPP organization to be developed” be changed to CPP.



## II. ANALYSIS

How did the staff respond to each request of text change of the petitioned chapter(s)?

### Overview

The staff reviewed each request to determine its relevance to the Master Plan, applicability to Chapter 7, and whether the request assists in accomplishing the intent of Chapter 7's, goals or strategies. When indicating text changes, **underlined-bold** text recommends an addition while ~~striketrough~~ text recommends text deletions. If the proposal included language, which already exists in Chapter 7, it is depicted as ~~striketrough~~ text. Some requests recommended for modified approval require additional language for clarity. This text is delineated in both **underlined-bold** text and prentices.

### Text 07-01 Discussion and Staff's Recommendation

The proposals' five requests are relevant to the Master Plan, applicable to Chapter 7 and further assist with achieving Goal 4 by incorporating art into parks and open spaces. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** for all five requests as documented below by the appropriate text font due to the staff's additional language recommendations.

#### *Request a.)*

The staff incorporated some language to 4.A.2 as follows: "**Utilize artistic intervention** ~~in the course of safe walking routes~~"

The staff incorporated some language to 7.20 as follows: "**Utilize artistic intervention** ~~in the course of safe walking routes~~",

The proposal to add strategy 4.B to page 7.9 and 7.20 is consistent with the intent of Goal 12, but would further assist implementing the existing Recommended Strategy 12.C as Recommended Action 12.C.2. Therefore, the staff recommends adding the proposal under Goal 12, Strategy C. Recommended Action 2 as follows:

~~"Acknowledgement of~~ **(Integrate) community and cultural assets in public space through public art + (and) design intervention (while including public/community input).**

~~**How:** Work with communities to define what is useful in a parks (public) space through community processes~~

**Who: Arts Council New Orleans; P(arks)&P(arkways), DPW**

**When: Medium Term**"

**(Resource: Staff time)**

#### *Request.b)*

The proposal to add strategy 6.B pages 7.10 and 7.23 is consistent with the intent of Goal 6, but would further assist in accomplishing the existing

Recommended Strategy 6.A. Therefore, the staff recommends adding the proposal to Goal 6, Strategy 6.A, as Recommended Action 6 as follows:

Recommended Action 6

**“(Encourage) Incentivize private owners to develop short to medium term public creative common space throughout neighborhoods (supporting the creative use of lots that are underutilized).”**

**How:** Utilize zoning and permitting levers to encourage **the creative use of lots that are underutilized** (added to the end of the proposed Recommended Action 6)

**Who:** CPC, CAO, NORA, Arts Council of New Orleans

**When:** Medium Term

**(Resources:** Staff time).

*Request c.)*

*Request c* would be consistent with Chapter 7 if the other recommended proposals on public art elsewhere in the chapter are approved. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** of the request to amend the language in Goal 11 as documented by the appropriate text font below due to the additional language recommended by the staff.

More effective coordination and cost-effectiveness management of parks, ~~public art (civic spaces)~~ **(open/green spaces,)** and recreation resources and programs and **(the public art in those spaces)**

*Request d)*

The proposal to add language in Recommend Strategy 12.A. on pages 7.11 and 7.27 would be restrictive. However, combining the proposed language to the proposed Recommended Action 12.A.4., which is both consistent with the intent of Goal 12 and Strategy 12.A. allows for the utilization of place making practices for surveying purposes. The staff also recommends additional language and therefore recommends **Modified Approval** of both components of this request as documented below by the appropriate font.

Amend language in recommendation 12.A.4 to pages 7.11 and 7.27

**“Creatively survey users of parks and recreation through creative place-making practices, on a regular basis”.**

**Who:** Arts Council; (other similar organization; Parks & Parkways; NORDC)

**When:** First five years”

**(Resources:** Staff time)

*Request e)*

All three components of this request: 1) language in Strategy 15.A page 7.12, 2) Recommended Action 12.A.4 on pages 7.11 and 7.27, and 3) additional narrative for 15.A page 7.29-7.30 are relevant to the Master Plan, applicable to Chapter 7 and further assist with achieving Goal 15. However, the staff recommends **Modified Approval** due to the staff's proposed language documented below by the appropriate font designation.

Update the Recommended Action 15.A page 7.12 and the chart on 7.2 and the corresponding narrative of the Master Plan to state the following:

**“Utilize the arts when providing** user-friendly community driven communication, including an interactive website, an annual report, consistent signage and similar efforts”

Add action 15.A.2 to page 7.12 and 7.29-7.30: to state **“Utilize the creative assets of the city to provide art and design that enhances public spaces. Work with the cities designated arts organizations to develop the creative way-finding and signage initiatives throughout the city.**

**Who: Arts Council of New Orleans; (CPC; DPW)**

**When: Medium Term**

**Resources: Staff time”**

Add rationale to action 15.A.2, page 7.29-7.30 to state **“New Orleans is an organically creative place that uses public space in a variety of ways to enhance the living conditions of its residents. The city should (commit to actively include) take can be advantaged of through the active inclusion of artists and designers in the more formal process of participation and public space development.”**

*Text 07-02 Discussion and Staff's Recommendation*

The proposal's three request by ENONAC to construct new neighborhood parks, restore vacant neighborhood parks and provide recreational facilities/attractions is relevant to the Master Plan, applicable to Chapter 7 and further assist with achieving Goals 4 and 9. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** for **all three** requests as documented below by the appropriate text font due to additional language recommended.

*Request a)*

This request would assist in accomplishing Goal 4. However, the staff recommends the new 4.B Recommended Strategy to be restated considering the original language was previously developed as a Recommended Action. In addition, the new proposed Recommended Action includes language addressing the underserved population which meets the intent of the proposal. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** for the request as

documented below by the appropriate text font due to the additional language recommended.

**4B 4.A.3. Prioritize creation of new parks or playgrounds for underserved areas where there is no park within walking distance and for provide access to resources of citywide importance, such as the waterfront.**

Action: For new strategy 4.B add Recommended Action #1 as follows:

~~How:~~ **Build new parks for underserved areas by using vacant, publicly-owned parcels – especially parcels which were intended, though never developed, for parks and/or community facilities.**

**Who: NORDC; Parks & Parkways; RER Real Estate and Records; Capitol Projects Administration**

**When: - 2016-2020 First five years**

**Resources: - CDBG; NORDC Foundation general fund; Staff time**

*Request b)*

The request to include Recommended Action 2 meets the intent of Goal 4.B and does not conflict with the Master Plan. Therefore, the staff recommends **Modified Approval** for the request as documented below by the appropriate text font due to additional language recommended.

~~How:~~ **4.B.2 Restore vacant or closed neighborhood parks in underserved areas, returning them to their previous activity level i.e. re-establishing sports teams (with programming to meet the community's current needs).**

**Who: Parks & Parkways; NORDC; (CDBG)**

**When: 2017-2020 First five years**

**Resources: D-CDBG (if available); NORDC Foundation (Staff time ;non-profit-organizations)**

*Request c)*

The requested new recommended action meets the intent of Goal 9 and does not conflict with the Master Plan. Therefore, the staff recommends **Modified Approval** for the request as documented below by the appropriate text font due to additional language recommended.

~~How:~~ **New item #2 (re-number the subsequent items)**

**Provide (recreational facilities/attractions such as fountain/spray parks and par course equipment as recreational amenities for children and teens.**

**Who: NORDC;(Capitol Projects Administration)**

**When: 2017-2020 First five years**

**Resources: (Staff time); Existing(/new) park land; NORDC Foundation; fees where appropriate**

*Text 07-03 Discussion and Staff's Recommendation*

The amendment application for the Urban Conservancy did not differentiate between existing and proposed language. However, the staff completed a comparison of the existing language to determine the proposed language. Urban Conservancy's overall proposal covers the theme of community participation in parks and recreation planning. Most of *Requests a* and *c* in this proposal is relevant to the Master Plan, applicable to Chapter 7 and further assist with achieving Goal 12. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** for **two request** (*Requests a* and *c*) as documented below. However, *Request b* of the proposal is addressed in the City's Charter and therefore, recommended for **Denial**.

*Request a)*

*Request a* adds further clarification to create and amend master plans for the various managing entities and is within the intent of Goal 12.C. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** for the request as documented below by the appropriate text font due to the additional language recommended:

~~12.A: Prepare and update a full parks and recreation master plan regularly.~~

**12.C. Prepare and update a city-wide parks, open/green space and recreation master plan and regional park master plans regularly.**

~~A full parks and recreation plan separate from the master plan should be updated every 10 years. As of 2016, this process is overdue as the last Parks and Open Space master plan was completed in 2002. A full update should occur as soon as possible and every 10 years, with an amendment process every five years to continue to guide decision making about the park and recreation system. This plan should include input from periodic assessments of park and recreation users, as well as a substantial public input process that includes public meetings in all planning districts and a stakeholder advisory committee that includes agency and resident representatives.~~ **The plan should include overall priorities for the parks and recreation system and should provide a detailed, facilities-based assessment and plan for achieving the individual goals and objectives described in this Master Plan document. It should include a full assessment of parks and recreation facilities available, and provide priorities and locations where additional facilities are needed to provide equitable access to park facilities across the City of New Orleans.**

Recommended Actions

- 1.** ~~Update the plan every 10 years;~~ **conduct an amendment process five years (which includes)** after the adoption of each updated plan.

Who: ~~CPC, working with~~ **NORDC, Parks and Parkways**, Audubon Commission, Board of Directors of City Park, National Park Service, French Market Corporation (Managers of Crescent Park), any other managing entities for parks **(Regional Park Administration)**

When: **ongoing** ~~Every five years at opening stage of Parks & Recreation Plan update or amendment process~~

Resources: **Staff time; (non-profits)** ~~(for update and amendment process); possible outside consultant and \$500-600K per update (for update only)~~

The information below was included in the narrative portion of 12.C of Chapter 7 of the Master Plan:

2. **(The appropriate managing entities should) cConduct a systematic assessment of park users before each full Parks and Recreation Master Plan update and each amendment process, in order to inform the update and amendment processes. This assessment should incorporate on-site observation of park and recreation spaces at multiple times of the week and multiple times of day.**

Who: ~~(12.C.1)-Mayor's Office of Innovation to partner with CPC and park provider agencies to develop technology and manage and supervise park operator agencies and volunteers; possible outside consultant~~

When: ~~Every five years at opening stage of Parks & Recreation Plan update or amendment process~~

Resources: ~~Staff time for volunteer management; general fund; volunteer support~~

The information below was included in the narrative portion of 12.C of Chapter 7 of the Master Plan:

3. **(In addition,) Conduct a full assessment (should be conducted by the managing entity) of park facilities as part of each Parks and Recreation Master Plan update and recommend needed facility changes for each park location.**

Who: ~~CPC with all park provider agencies; possibly with assistance from outside consultant~~

When: ~~Every five years at opening stage of Parks & Recreation Plan update or amendment process~~

Resources: ~~Staff time; funding for possible outside consultant~~

The following is addressed in Chapter 7 by 12.B.1.

4. ~~Include a substantive public input process for each Parks and Recreation Master Plan update and amendment process that includes~~

~~a public meeting in every Planning District to gather input, a stakeholder advisory committee guiding the process that includes both park owners/operators and residents, and a final town hall to present a late draft of the plan and gather final revisions.~~

~~Who: CPC; possible assistance from outside consultant~~

~~When: Every five years at opening stage of Parks & Recreation Plan update or amendment process~~

~~Resources: Staff time; funding for outside consultant~~

This is already a requirement of both the Master Plan and the CZO.

5. ~~Ensure that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is consistent with Volume 2, Chapter 7 and Volume 2, Chapter 14 of the Plan for the 21st Century, and makes actionable recommendations that allow the realization of key Plan for the 21st Century priorities.~~

~~Who: CPC; possible assistance from outside consultant~~

~~When: Ongoing~~

~~Resources: Staff time; funding for outside consultant~~

#### *Request b)*

This request is partly addressed in the Section 5-402.4 of the City's Charter which states that "the capital improvement plan and the capital budget shall be consistent with the Master Plan". However, the CIP process is outside the scope of Chapter 7 of the Master Plan.

~~12.B: Require that all Capital Improvement Plans demonstrate consistency with Chapter 7 of this Master Plan, as amended, and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, in order to be approved. Establish a streamlined public participation process that allows public input into each agency's Capital Improvement Plan.~~

#### **Recommended Actions**

1. ~~Require consistency with both the City's Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan before making final determinations on project funding.~~

~~Who: CPC~~

~~When: Ongoing during annual CIP process~~

~~Resources: Staff time~~

~~While the City's Master Plan establishes general priorities for the parks and recreation system, the completed Parks and Recreation Master Plan will provide more concrete recommendations about how resources should be allocated and prioritized throughout the park system. This makes the Parks~~

~~and Recreation Master Plan a more ideal tool for determining whether proposed CIP projects are consistent with the City's and the public's priorities for public open space.~~

- ~~2. Enhance transparency around capital improvements within the City's park and recreation system by requiring all park owners/operators who currently participate in the CIP process to hold a public joint meeting at least 30 days prior to final CIP public hearings in order to present draft CIP concepts and accept feedback from the public. This meeting must be held at a time outside of normal working hours in an accessible location.~~

~~Who: CPC~~

~~When: Ongoing during annual CIP process~~

~~Resources: Staff time~~

- ~~3. The CPC should improve the public's ability to comment in final CIP hearings by setting all park agencies' meetings on the same date and working with the Neighborhood Engagement Office (NEO) to send notice of the date 30 days in advance to all registered neighborhood associations and Friends of Parks groups.~~

~~Who: CPC, Neighborhood Engagement Office~~

~~When: Ongoing during annual CIP process~~

~~Resources: Staff time~~

- ~~4. The final CIP for all park agencies should be adopted into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan on an annual basis.~~

~~Who: CPC~~

~~When: Ongoing during annual CIP process~~

~~Resources: Staff time~~

#### *Request c)*

The overall intent of this request is a continuation of the applicant's first request, which was previously addressed through incorporations in Goal 12.B and Goal 12.C of Chapter. In addition, a recommendation was included in the narrative of Goal 12.C of Chapter 7 and as Recommended Action 12.C.3 to consider amending the CZO to include a requirement similar to the Institutional Master Plan requirement. During the process of amending the CZO, the applicant should be able to submit the request included in the proposal below. The portion of the narrative from Goal 12.C of Chapter 7, proposed by staff because of this request and the Recommended Action (12.C.3) follows:

**(In order to account for changes of a Master Plan it is important the city-wide and regional Master Plans establish a process similar to the existing**



**Institutional Master Plan requirement in the Comprehensive Ordinance.** ~~Therefore, (This could be achieved through) an amendment to the CZO to (require) include city wide green/open space and recreation systems and~~ **regional master plans.**

### **Recommended Action**

**12.C.3. Amend the CZO to incorporate master Plan regulations for parks, regional parks similar to the existing Institutional Master Plan regulations in the CZO.**

**Who: CPC; Parks& Parkways; NORDC**

**When: First five years**

**Resources: (Staff time)**

### Recommended Actions

1. ~~Park agencies including NORDC, Parks and Parkways, New Orleans City Park, and the Audubon Commission may complete and abide by individual Programming and Design Plans for their park facilities, in order to avoid an extensive individual design review process for major investments. In order to solicit public input on these Programming and Design Plans, park users and community members should be invited to a series of meetings: the first to gather information on issues and concerns; the second to present a conceptual version of the plan for discussion; and the third to present a final draft of the detailed plan for discussion.~~

~~Who: All park provider agencies; CPC to review and approve~~

~~When: Ongoing during annual CIP process~~

~~Resources: Staff time~~

~~All Programming and Design Plans shall be completed by 2019 and shall include clear, specific design and programming recommendations for the entirety of the park facilities under each agency's control. Individual design review as described in Recommended Action 2 will not be required for projects that comply with the Programming and Design Plan, but will be required for all projects over \$100,000 or 10,000 square feet in area that do not comply with or are not mentioned in the Programming and Design Plan. The CPC will review these plans for completeness and compliance with the City's Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Parks & Recreation Master Plan and all individual Programming & Design Plans shall be made available online at the CPC website.~~

2. ~~All projects over \$100,000 or 10,000 square feet in area in an agency's CIP that do not comply with or are not mentioned in an adopted Programming and Design Plan shall undergo a public design~~

~~review process. The process shall consist of three meetings: the first to gather information on issues and concerns; the second to present a conceptual design for discussion; and the third to present the detailed design for discussion.~~

~~**Who:** Parks and Parkways, NORDC, New Orleans City Park, Audubon Commission; CPC to review and certify public process~~

~~**When:** Ongoing during annual CIP process~~

~~**Resources:** Staff time~~

Text 07-04 Discussion and Staff's Recommendation

The proposal's two request by NOLA Squared to restore, design, reconstruct, and maintain neighborhood is relevant to the Master Plan, applicable to Chapter 7 and further assist with achieving Goals 4, 7 and 14. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** for **both request** as documented below by the appropriate text font due to the additional language recommendations.

*Request a)*

Insert the following into Volume 2, Chapter 7, under heading "Park System" between item #7 and #8 on page 7.1

The proposed goal meets the intent of Chapter 7; however, is similar to the existing Goal 7 of Chapter 7. Some of the proposed language along with the first two proposed Policies for Decision Makers and Recommendations Action were combined to create Strategy 7.D. In addition, some language was added to include private partnerships as a support option to 14.A. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** for the request as documented below by the appropriate text font due to additional language recommended:

GOAL	POLICIES FOR DECISION MAKERS
<del>7i</del> <b><u>(7.D.) Restore, redesign, reconstruct, and maintain (these areas)</u></b>	<del>7iA</del> <b><u>(7.D.) Research the history and design to of neighborhood parks (open/green spaces and recreation sites to)</u></b>
	<del>7iB</del> <b><u>(7.D.) Ddevelop plans to restore, redesign, reconstruct, and maintain (these areas) neighborhood parks</u></b>
	<del>7iC</del> <b><u>(14.A) Create public/private partnerships to implement plans to restore, redesign, reconstruct, and maintain neighborhood parks</u></b>

Request b)

On page 7.10, insert the following between items #7 and #8:

The proposed Recommended Strategies below are incorporated into 7.D and 14.A as stated previously because the proposed language is relevant to the Master Plan, applicable to Chapter 7 and further assist with achieving Goals 7 and 14. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** for the request as documented below by the appropriate text font due to additional language recommended:

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
	<del>7iA. Research the history and design of neighborhood parks — neighborhood parks</del>	<b><u>(7.D.)1. Inventory neighborhood parks as a reference for fundraising and promotional activities</u></b>
		<b><u>(7.D).2. Gather new research and coordinate existing histories of each individual parks, (open/green space and recreation site) including:</u></b> a. <del>The history</del> of each park with the biographical data of significant individuals involved in the design or creation of the park and its surrounding neighborhood; b. The role of each park in the <b><u>social, economic and environmental development</u></b> of its neighborhood; c. The <b><u>architectural and horticultural styles</u></b> that make each park unique; d. An analysis of any <b><u>(7.D.1) existing original landscape designs, and any recently implemented or proposed restorations</u></b>
	<del>7iB. Develop plans to restore, redesign, reconstruct, and maintain neighborhood parks</del>	<del>1. Prepare an existing conditions — survey — that assesses original and existing plant materials which may impact stabilization and/or redesign of the park</del>

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
		<del>2.</del> <b><u>(7.D.3). Hold workshops on park, (open/green space and recreation site) usage, restoration, redesign, reconstruction, and maintenance with (nearby) current residents and commercial property owners</u></b>
		<del>3.</del> <b><u>(7.D.4.) Prepare a preliminary design that takes into account Smart Growth principles and sustainability issues, and includes a discussion of storm water management priorities</u></b>
		4. Develop a preliminary budget for restoration, redesign, and reconstruction of each park
		5. Outline of a 20-year maintenance plan for each park.
	7iC. Create public/private partnerships to implement plans to restore, redesign, reconstruct, and maintain neighborhood parks	<del>14.A.2.</del> <b><u>Establish a not-for-profit, operating under an authorizing MOU with the City of New Orleans, to develop a series of partnerships among City, Parish, State, Federal, Private Foundation, Corporate Foundation and Corporate Resources to restore, redesign, reconstruct and maintain parks (open/spaces and recreation resources and programs.)</u></b>
		<b><u>2 (7.D.5) Implement plans to restore, redesign, and reconstruct parks (open/green spaces and recreation sites) using an annual 'phased' approach, taking into consideration:</u></b>

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
		<u>a. Extant plant materials, their preservation and nurturance;</u> <u>b. The addition of lower maintenance plant materials;</u> <u>c. Recreational and open space use priorities (i.e., passive and active recreational uses);</u> <u>d. (Landuse) Zoning and planning changes impacting the nature of each adjacent neighborhood;</u> <u>e. The traditional character and history of each (site) neighborhood</u>
		3. Restore, redesign and reconstruct neighborhood parks with the City's approval and endorsement
		4. <u>(7.A.4) Develop partnerships to support the funding of a maintenance endowment for the City's neighborhood parks (open/green spaces, and recreation sites based upon a City-approved 20-year maintenance plan,</u> developed as outlined above

Text 07-05 Discussion and Staff's Recommendation

*Request a* (narrative) and *Request b* (Recommended Actions 2.A.10 and 2.A.11) from the Sustaining Our Urban Landscape proposal, are relevant to the Master Plan, applicable to Chapter 7 and further assist with achieving Goal 2. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** for **both requests** as documented below by the appropriate text font due to the additional language recommendations.

*Request a)*

The narrative, although relevant to the Master Plan, combined information more appropriate for other chapters. However, the information provided can be condensed and made more relevant to Chapter 7. The staff recommends

**Modified Approval** for the request as documented below by the appropriate text font due to the additional language recommendations.

#### Narrative Recommendations

By green infrastructure, we refer not only to **public parks and open space**, but to a **system and scale of landscape features that retain and infiltrate stormwater**. Because **these features mitigate flood risk, slow/halt subsidence, and save energy, amongst many other benefits**, they should be incorporated into public and private development. The Master Plan should include measurable green infrastructure goals, including goals for the retrofitting of existing development. As **trees play a vital role** in green infrastructure and are the most affordable form of green infrastructure to implement, the language around **protecting valuable trees and creating funding mechanisms to plant new trees** should be enhanced. **The term “heritage trees”** should be introduced throughout the document to **indicate valuable (usually native water loving trees) trees with a caliper of 24” or more**.

In addition, the city can implement public green infrastructure projects more successfully if departmental functions are explained and responsibilities delineated.

#### Request b)

*Request b* (2.A.10 and 2.A.11) although relevant to Strategy 2 and further assist in achieving goal 2, was renumbered appropriately (2.A.5 and 2.A.6) to fit in with the other recommended actions. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** for the request as documented below by the appropriate text font due to the additional language recommendations.

page 7.6	Goal 2: Restoration and expansion of the city’s urban forest to reach 50 per- cent tree canopy by 2030	Strategy: 2.A. Promote tree planting on both public and private property.	Change 2A to: Promote tree preservation and tree planting on both public and private properties.
			Add: 2A.10: <b><u>(2.A.5) Create a no net loss of tree canopy strategy for public and private property.</u></b>
			Add: 2A.11: <b><u>(2.A.6) Establish criteria for "Heritage Trees" to inform future development.</u></b>

### Text 07-06 Discussion and Staff's Recommendation

The amendment application for Councilmember Cantrell on behalf of NOLA Parks for All has three distinct requested (*Request a, b, and c*). Some of the requests of the proposal were relevant to the Master Plan, applicable to Chapter 7 and further assist with achieving Goals 4 and 5. The staff recommended **Modified Approval** of *Request b, and c*. But, *Request a* was found to be too restrictive for the Master Plan and better suited for the Zoning Ordinance if needed. Therefore, the staff recommends **Denial** of *Request a*.

#### *Request a)*

When reviewing *Request a*, the staff found that removing the word “net” from Goal 3 could allow for interpretation to possibly hinder any flexibility of parklands and green spaces. Therefore, the staff does not recommend this deletion of the word “net”. Land use regulation proposals to decrease the flexibility of development within park and open/green space decreases the ability of the land to meet the changing needs of the users. Such restrictions are better addressed through various processes of the City, such as those for property dispositions. Therefore, the staff recommends **Denial** to the request to add additional language to Goal 3, Strategy 3.A., and Recommended Actions 1, 4, and. All of these components of *Request a* are also recommended for **Denial**. Therefore, the staff recommends **Denial** of *Request a* in its entirety.

GOAL 3. A commitment to no net loss of public parkland, ~~and to a strict limitation on conversion of open green space to specialized uses or to intensive and commercial uses.~~

#### POLICIES FOR DECISION MAKERS/RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

3.A. Establish ... ~~and that existing open green space in parks is not converted to specialized uses, such as golf courses and stadiums, or to intensive and commercial uses, such as restaurants and event facilities.~~

#### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Require ..., ~~such as the conditional use process, ....~~
4. ~~Require enhanced public review, such as the conditional use process, of changes of use of public parkland that would limit access by the general public and casual park patrons or be more intensive or commercial than the existing use.~~
5. ~~Create separate future land use categories of Open Space and Recreational areas.~~

### *Request b)*

When reviewing *Request b*, the staff found that the proposed deletion of text from 4.A would remove the support for a diverse landscape and hinders the ability to meet changing needs of the public. Therefore, the staff does not recommend this component of *Request b*, a text addition from 4.A.

The staff found that most of the language proposed in Recommended Action 4.A.1 supports (through text addition) and offers further clarification (thought text deletion) of the existing Recommended Strategy 4.A. Therefore, the staff recommends the text addition/deletion as documented below.

The staff also found that the text addition of Recommended Action 4 helps further Goal 4 and recommends this component of *Request b* as documented below. However, because Recommended Action was recommended for approval to be changed to Recommended Strategy B, the staff recommends the new action to be numbered 3

Considering the previous information the staff recommends **Modified Approval** of *Request b* as a whole as documented below by the text font delineation.

GOAL 4 A park within walking distance – approximately 1/3 mile – of every New Orleans resident

### POLICIES FOR DECISION MAKERS/RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

4.A. Balance passive and active uses of parks and public spaces. Increase ...

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Provide open fields, and tree-shaded areas, ~~walking~~–paths for walking, running, biking, and/or similar uses, seating, water fountains and similar low impact amenities, and programming (activities such as concerts, festivals, etc.) in parks and (open/green spaces) ~~neutral grounds that are not managed by NORD in order to ensure that residential~~ s can and will enable and encourage residents to use them.
4. 3 Establish systems to use vacant public lots and other public properties, such as schools, as full time or part time neighborhood parks.

### *Request c)*

Land use regulation proposals to decrease the flexibility of development within park and open/green space decreases the ability of the land to meet the



changing needs of the users. Such restrictions are better addressed through various processes in the CZO (i.e Conditional Uses). However, the staff recognizes the importance of access and diversity in the landscape and therefore recommends some of the proposed language be added to 5.A and also recommends some of the language proposed for Recommendation Action 4 to be incorporated into Recommended Strategy 1 of Goal 5. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** of *Request c* based on the recommendations to incorporate some of the request's language as documented below by the appropriate text font designation.

GOAL 5      More public access to waterfronts

#### POLICIES FOR DECISION MAKERS/RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

- 5.A. ~~Create parks and public spaces along the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain~~ **and ensure that river and lake access is kept open to the general public and not dominated by specialized use facilities, particularly those which could be placed in other areas.**

#### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

4. ~~Zone or regulate waterfront public property to~~ **allow(ing) unprogrammed open (/) green space to predominate.** ~~Require enhanced public review, such as the conditional use process, of changes of use of waterfront property that would limit access to the general public or be more intensive or commercial than the existing use.~~

#### Text 07-07 Discussion and Staff's Recommendation

*Request a* is relevant to the Master Plan, applicable to Chapter 7 and further assist with achieving Goal 9 as it adds an additional mechanism to provide year round recreation opportunities. However, a Recommended Action 6 has been proposed and recommended. Therefore, the staff recommends the renumbering of the request to Recommended Action 7. The staff recommends ***Request a*** for **Modified Approval** as documented below by the appropriate text font due to the additional language recommendations.

*Request a)*

**(9.A.67) "Promote and provide a space for community-led cultural programming in all city-run recreation and community centers"**

**Who: NORD(C), cultural organizations, culture bearers.**

**When: (First five years) ongoing**

**Resources: (Staff time; existing/new NORDC facilities); Fees, where appropriate**

**Neighborhood based cultural traditions are an integral part of the City's identity and a driving factor in youth development. Community led cultural programming held by either cultural organizations or respected culture bearers will be given a space in all city run recreation and community centers, with priority given to organizations and individuals from the (area) neighborhood where the center is located.**

*Text 07-08 Discussion and Staff's Recommendation*

The proposal by the Greater New Orleans Water Collaborative addresses tree planting, stormwater management, and access to waterfronts. The proposal did not differentiate between recommendations and existing language. Below is the staff's interpretation of the request upon comparing the proposal with the existing Master Plan.

The staff found the suggested language for the narrative sections stated in *Requests b, c, f, g, and i* for Chapter 7 to further the intent and be consistent with those sections and recommends **Approval** as documented with the appropriate text allocation in each section below. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** of *Requests a, d, e, h, j, and k* as documented below by the appropriate text font due to the additional language recommendations.

*Request a* was added to the narrative of 2.A.2 and recommended for **Modified Approval**. The staff added *Request b* to the narrative of proposal 2.B.1 and recommended it for **Approval**. *Request c* adds additional details that are consistent with the proposed 2.A.6 Recommended Action and is recommended for **Approval**. The staff recommended Modified Approval of *Request d* which adds additional details that are consistent with the existing proposed renumbered Recommended Action 2.D.2. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** of *Request e* as most of the language is incorporated in the narrative portion of Recommended Strategy 12.C. The staff recommends **Approval** of *Request f*, which is consistent with Goal 3 and the language is recommended to be added to the narrative of 3.A.1. The staff recommends **Approval** of *Request g*, which is consistent with Goal 3 and the language is recommended to be added to the narrative of 3.A.3. The staff recommends *Request h* for **Modified Approval** because the language is consistent with the Goal 5 is recommended to be added to the narrative of 5.A.3. The staff recommends *Request i* for **Approval**. The language is consistent with Goal 5 and is recommended to be added to Goal 5. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** of *Request j*, which is consistent with the Goal 5 by further enhancing the narrative of 5.A.3. There the proposal was added to the narrative as documented below and is recommended for approval. The staff recommends **Modified Approval** of *Request k*, which is appropriate for Chapter 7, consistent and furthers the Goal 5, but would need to be renumbered as Recommended Strategy 5.A.5 considering a 5.A.4 is already proposed and recommended for approval.

*Request a)*

Volume 2 – Implementation, Chapter 7: Green Infrastructure

GOAL 2.A, P.7.15-16 Promote tree planting on both public and private property.

~~In addition to specifying (T) the location of tree wells and landscape species, design documents for these projects should demonstrate adequate root growth area and rainwater supply available for each tree. When appropriate, technologies such as tree cells and pervious paving systems should be used to create conditions in which street trees thrive.~~

The information below is already stated in the Recommended Strategy 2.A and the proposed Recommended Strategy 2.B collectively.

~~3. Promote tree preservation and planting on private property.~~

~~Who: Parks and Parkways; City GIS unit; Louisiana Urban Forestry Council (LUFC)~~

~~When: Medium term~~

~~Resources: La. Department of Agriculture and Forestry; Urban and Community Grants; Alliance for Community Trees Grant; Chevron Grants~~

*Request b)*

Standards....**A compensatory mitigation program should be established to guarantee replanting of tree caliper equal or greater to that lost. This model could fund offsite plantings when appropriate. It could also be adapted to encompass heritage trees on properties not slated for development.** Methods to help provide and promote ... neighborhoods.

*Request c)*

6. Inventory the city's public trees and overall tree canopy. **Identify as "heritage trees" (as) those trees of native species, significant size (e.g. top 20% by caliper), located along public corridors. Use additional criteria as appropriate. Consider additional protections for qualifying trees and appropriate incentives for their retention.**

Who: Parks and Parkways

When: Medium term

Resources: La. Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry and Community Grants; Alliance for Community Tree Grants; Chevron Grants

*Request d)*

GOAL 2.D, P.7.17

Establish storm water management planting practices in public green spaces.

Recommended Actions

- ‡ **2.D.2.** Replace most lawn areas in neutral grounds and street sides with bioswales, plantings and appropriate storm water elements green infrastructure, when necessary amending the soil to accommodate increased rainwater detention.

Who: Parks and Parkways; **S&WB; DPW; nonprofit partners**

When: Medium term

Resources: Staff education and training; grants for public awareness; grow plants in nursery

*Request e)*

~~Develop~~ **Also a comprehensive design and investment plan (should be developed for) the Departments of Public Works and Parks & Parkways. This plan should detail stormwater best management practices for neutral grounds, intersections, rights of way, etc. as well as long-term maintenance protocols for the prescribed green infrastructure installations. The plan should include specific project commitments and establish new default designs for road or utility projects that disrupt neutral grounds.** ~~It should be completed within two years of amending the Master Plan accordingly~~

*Request f)*

GOAL 3.A.1, p.7.18

Because it is often difficult to acquire land to create new parks, the overall amount of city land devoted to parks and open space should, at a minimum, remain the same. That means that no park land should be transferred to another use or sold without provision for the same amount or more land being designated as new park land. **Adapting park land for improved stormwater management through landscape design is not to be considered a new use, as this is an historic function of open space in the city.** ~~However, development of buildings, parking lots and other structures atop publicly owned open space, ought to be offset by the acquisition of new publicly owned open space. State Act 378 provides that designated park land (what constitutes “designation” is not described) cannot be taken out of park uses without the written approval of 70 percent of the property owners within a radius of 300 feet of the park.~~

Any park land sold or taken for other uses, including other municipal uses, must be replaced by land with similar park, recreation or conservation value in terms of usefulness and location. **(It is equally important to note that w When open space is developed for a beneficial or recreational use (e.g. park office, rec center, etc.), its conservation value may be lost or degraded. In (some) such cases, the city should seek to replace the acreage in order to retain a net balance of public open space.** If the land

is not available, funds must be deposited in a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund or similar dedicated account (described below) that would be sufficient to buy replacement land at fair market value.

*Request g)*

Added to 3.A.3

GOAL 3.A.3, p.7.19

Establish systems to ensure that the city does not lose acreage dedicated to parks

Recommended Actions

3. Evaluate any public property identified for sale to identify suitability as a park or recreation site (**or stormwater management**).

Who: **(CPC)** Parks and Parkways; City Attorney; City Council; **S&WB; DPW; NORA, NORDC**

When: ~~Medium term~~ (ongoing)

Resources: Staff time

Before public land is put up for sale, it should be reviewed by the CPC, NORD, and Parks and Parkways to see if it is suitable for an identified park or recreation need in that location **or for stormwater retention to benefit neighborhood drainage or flood-risk reduction.**

GOAL 5, p.7.21 More public access to waterfronts

For a city surrounded by water, New Orleans has a limited amount of public open space at its waterfronts. More access to the waterfront has been a goal for almost 20 years.

*Request h)*

**While some progress has been made, great potential remains. In addition to the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain, New Orleans' bayous, canals and wetlands represent important water assets. Landscape features for water management, such as along Lafitte Greenway and in NORA Stormwater Lots, are similarly valuable. Linking people to these water assets with trails, pocket parks, overlooks, etc. and linking these assets together with greenways, bike lanes, pedestrian bridges, etc. enhances quality of life. In many cases, such linkages can be paired with (parks, open/green spaces, and recreations areas) green infrastructure to recharge groundwater and improve water quality.**

*Request i)*

5.A Create parks and public spaces along the Mississippi River, Lake Pontchartrain **and other waterways and wetlands.**

Recommended Action

3. Enhance the amenity value of canals and drainage assets when possible.

Who: Levee Board; OFICD; **S&WB; DPW; Parks and Parkways**

When: First five years

Resources: Levee resources and capital budget

*Request j)*

Today, most of the canals and drainage facilities in New Orleans are unattractive, if they are visible at all, and residents experience water more as a threat than as an amenity. The Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan calls for the daylighting of some existing canals and maintenance of higher water levels within canals to reduce the dewatering of soils, which is known to aggravate subsidence. **In addition to making sure that any canals function correctly for water management, it is important that they be designed as an attractive addition to the city's open space. Likewise, a new generation of green infrastructure drainage assets should contribute to urban design goals.** The Sewerage and Water Board must also be involved in any analysis of canals and drainage assets to ensure safety and system performance.

*Request k)*

**4. (5). Link existing water assets.**

**Who: CPC, S&WB, Office of Coastal and Environmental Affairs, NORA, (DPW) Levee boards, etc.**

**When: Medium term**

**Resources: General fund, private foundations, federal grants**

**Connecting water assets to open space and each other through trails, bike lanes, pedestrian bridges, etc. not only improves accessibility but also fosters stewardship and creates new opportunities for economic investment in adjacent parcels. Furthermore these linkages can provide valuable forums for interpretive signage and educational events that enhance citizens understanding of water systems and their own role in water management. Crescent Park, Lafitte Greenway and Lakeshore Drive provide useful models that should be adapted to suit the water assets in East New Orleans and Algiers. Interconnectivity among these waterside corridors should be a long-range goal.**

### Text 07-09 Discussion and Staff's Recommendation

This proposal by the Mayor's Office intends to update, and revise the conditions, goals and strategies found throughout Chapter 7. It speaks specifically to how the City of New Orleans is committed to continue equitable land use decisions and resilient practices and policies. The submitted application is available online for a comparison in determining what requests of the proposal was accepted or not accepted by CPC staff. In general, most text additions or deletions are recommended for approval as they clarify previous language or updated data. However, some of the deletions were not recommended for approval, as the original language is still relivent. Therefore, collectively the staff recommends **Modified Approval** of the proposal.

### Text 07-10 Discussion and Staff's Recommendation

This proposal by the City Planning Commission to delete the word "Green Infrastructure" found anywhere throughout Chapter 7 in addition to the other minor changes updates the Chapter 7 and would not affect or change the content of the chapter is recommended for **Approval**. To allow seamless incorporation of some recommendations into the Master Plan additional minor edits are recommended as documented below.

Chapter 7	Section/Page	Specific Text Request
	7.1	Delete "Green Infrastructure:" from the title and wherever it appears in this context.
Fact Sheet - Parks, Open Space and Recreation	7.3	Under "Fact Sheet" after "10 recreation centers pre-Katrina", correct "restoreda" to be spelled " <b><u>restored</u></b> "
Findings	7.4	Under "Findings", after "New Orleans lots approximately 100,000 trees as a result of Hurricane Katrina", insert "About 50,000 new trees have been planted as of 2016." Delete " <del>New Orleans currently has few designated walking or biking trails</del> " and insert in lieu thereof " <b><u>New Orleans has developed a number of new walking and biking paths, but more are needed.</u></b> "
Introduction	7.5	Change "city had approximately 3,000 acres of park land in 2009" to "city had approximately <b><u>4,340</u></b> acres of parkland in <b><u>2015</u></b> " OR "city had approximately 3,000 acres of park land in 2009, a number that grew to 4,340 acres in 2015"
	7.11	Renumber Recommended Action 12.C.2 to <b><u>12.C.1</u></b>

Chapter 7	Section/Page	Specific Text Request
	7.11	In 12.B.1, amend Recommendations to indicate that <b><u>NORDC</u></b> is the organization for receiving community input and they have a system. Remove " <b><u>CPC working through NPP organization to be created</u></b> " from Who column.
	7.16	In 2.A.5, delete the word "Require" and insert in lieu thereof "Maintain". Mark time frame as "complete"
	7.17	In 2.D, add Actions to reflect our more robust stormwater program and goals of the Resilience Plan
	7.18	In 3.A.1, update text pertaining to State Act 378 and requirements for park land proposed to be taken out of use.
	7.19	In 3.A.3, add "NORDC" to the list of "Who".
	7.22	In Goal 6, replace "green streets" with "green <b><u>connectors</u></b> " to better reflect the context of this chapter.
	7.27	In 12.B, delete "CPC, working through NPP organization to be developed" and insert in lieu thereof: " <b><u>NORDC, Parks &amp; Parkways with neighborhood/community participation</u></b> "
		In 12.C., delete references to the "City Planning Commission." Insert " <b><u>NORDC</u></b> " where missing from narrative.
	7.28	In 13.A, and universal, all references to "NORD" should be changed to " <b><u>NORDC</u></b> "
	7.29	In 13.A.3, correct "greens pace" to " <b><u>green space</u></b> "



The following are additional minor edits recommended for consistency or clarity purposes encountered during the analysis review.

Chapter 7	Section/Page	Specific Text
	Universal	Replace green space or open space to green/open space
	7.1	<del>NETWORK</del> <b><u>Preservation/Retention</u></b>
	12.B.1	Added “all” before parks, “to incorporate” before community, and “green spaces” after parks
	Universal	Where appropriate add <b><u>open/green space and recreation site</u></b>
	1.A.1	<del>Rewrite-CZO</del> <b><u>-amendment</u></b>

*Text 07-11 (Submitted in Text Amendment 15-01) Discussion and Staff's Recommendation*

Chapter 7's reference to the NPP (Neighborhood Participation Plan) is correct as the term for the process to include public participation was changed from CPP to NPP. Considering this information, the staff recommends **Modified Approval** as the intent of the request is already met in the Master Plan.

## Summary

The following table contains a summary of each request and how the staff responded to each. For requests that the staff recommends approval or modified approval, proposed text is included in the next section.

Proposal	Request	Subject	Recommendation
Text 07-01	a-c	Integrating art into public spaces	Modified Approval
Text 07-02	a-c	Providing parks in underserved areas	Modified Approval
Text 07-03	a and c	Community participation in parks and recreation planning	Modified Approval
	b		Denial
Text 07-04	a and b	Restoring neighborhood parks	Modified Approval
Text 07-05	a and b	Improving the tree canopy	Modified Approval
Text 07-06	a	Natural areas, open space and recreation areas	Denial
	b and c		Modified Approval
Text 07-07	a	Add cultural programming to recreation centers	Modified Approval
Text 07-08	a, d, e, h, j, and k	Tree planting, stormwater management, access to waterfronts	Modified Approval
	b, c, f, g, and i,		Approval

Proposal	Request	Subject	Recommendation
Text 07-09		Revise conditions, goals and strategies in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Chapter	Modified Approval
Text 07-10		Numerous revisions throughout the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Chapter	Approval
Text 07-11		Change the reference for community participation from the Neighborhood Participation Plan (NPP) to the Community Participation Plan.	Modified Approval

### III. SUMMARY

Most requests updated or clarified, or built upon existing language. This is noted by the majority of the request being recommended for approval or modified approval.

### IV. PRELIMINARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION<sup>9</sup>

The staff recommends Approval Modified Approval or Denial as documented in the previous table.

### V. TEXT AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATION

When considering the each proposal an addition is indicated by **underlined-bold** text, while deletions are indicated by ~~strikethrough~~ text. See Chapter 7 that follows.

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<sup>9</sup> Subject to modification by the City Planning Commission

## VOLUME 2

## Chapter

## 7

~~GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE~~: PARKS, OPEN GREEN SPACES AND RECREATION

GOAL		POLICIES FOR DECISION MAKERS	FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE:
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE <del>Preservation/Retention</del> NETWORK			
1	Protection of remaining wetland areas inside and outside the levee system	1.A. <del>Review and revise as needed regulations. Ensure that</del> land use and zoning categories for wetlands and coastal areas <u>to</u> promote wetland preservation.	<del>7.13–7.14</del>
		1.B. Seek conservation solutions for wetlands through permanent protection or acquisition by conservation organizations.	<del>7.14</del> <del>7.13</del>
2	Restoration and expansion of New Orleans’ urban forest to reach 50 percent tree canopy by 2030	2.A. Promote tree planting on <del>both</del> public <del>and-private</del> property.	<del>7.14</del>
		<del>2.CB. Promote tree preservation and planting on private property. 2.BC. Restore and plant new trees in parks, green spaces and neutral grounds.</del>	7.16
		<del>2.BC. Restore and plant new trees in parks, green spaces and neutral grounds. 2.CB. Promote tree preservation and planting on private property.</del>	<del>7.17</del>
		2.D. <del>Develop and e</del> Establish storm water management practices in public <u>parks</u> , green spaces, <u>and neutral grounds</u> .	<del>7.17</del>
PARK SYSTEM			
3	A commitment to no net loss of public parkland	3.A. Establish systems <u>and funding</u> to ensure that the city does not lose acreage dedicated to parks.	<del>7.17–7.18</del>
4	A park within walking distance—approximately 1/3 mile—of every New Orleans resident	4.A. Balance passive and active uses of parks and public spaces.	<del>7.20</del>
		<u>4.B. Prioritize creation of new parks or playgrounds where there is no park within walking distance and provide access to resources of citywide importance, such as the waterfront.</u>	

5	<b>More public access to waterfronts</b>	5.A. Create parks and public spaces along the Mississippi River, <del>and</del> Lake Pontchartrain <del>and</del> <u>other waterways and wetlands and ensure access to the public.</u>	<del>7.24</del>
6	<b>More green connections throughout city</b>	6.A. Create linear parks and green ways for multi-use pathways using the city's neutral grounds and other linear connections, such as levees, canal edges and <del>former</del> rail lines.	<del>7.22</del>
7	<b>Maintenance of existing parks, <del>and</del> open/green spaces, <del>and</del> recreation sites to a high level through restoration, redesign and reconstruction</b>	7.A. Establish expanded maintenance criteria for parks <del>and open green</del> spaces <del>and recreation sites</del> in partnership with citizen parks groups.	<del>7.23</del>
		7.B. Establish clear and permanent policies and procedures for accepting, placing and maintaining public art in parks, green spaces and recreation sites.	<del>7.24</del>
		<u>7.C. Establish and maintain stormwater infrastructure in public spaces.</u>	<del>7.24</del>
		<u>7.D Research the history and design of parks, and open/green spaces and develop plans to restore, redesign, reconstruct, and maintain these areas.</u>	
<b>RECREATION</b>			
8	<b>Multi-use indoor/ outdoor recreation centers within 5 miles of every resident</b>	8.A. Create <del>40</del> <u>5</u> indoor pools at existing centers.	<del>7.24</del>
		8.B. Coordinate recreation resources with schools and other community and human services.	<del>7.24</del>
9	<b>Year-round recreation opportunities for children, seniors, and adults</b>	9.A. Provide recreational opportunities appropriate to the demographics of the surrounding neighborhood.	<del>7.25</del>
10	<b>Recreation offerings that meet changing <u>citizen</u> needs</b>	10.A. Regularly monitor the recreation needs of all segments of the population.	<del>7.26</del>
<b>FINANCING AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
11	<b>More effective coordination and cost-effective management of parks, <u>open/green spaces</u>, and recreation resources and programs, <u>and the public art in those spaces</u></b>	11.A. Coordinate park and recreation resources and activities throughout the city.	<del>7.26</del>
12	<b>Neighborhood participation in decision making about parks and recreation</b>	12.A. Survey both park and recreation users on a regular basis.	<del>7.27</del>

		12.B. <del>Continue to use</del> <del>Establish a system for</del> community input <del>systems</del> in park and recreation design and improvements.	7.27
		12.C. Prepare and update a full <del>city wide</del> parks, <del>green/open space</del> and recreation master plan <del>and</del> <del>regional park master plans</del> regularly.	7.28
13	<del>A. Consistent and adequate level of maintenance, operations and programming on per capita basis</del>	13.A. Provide a consistent and adequate per capita operating budget and work towards establishing a dedicated funding source for municipal park and recreation resources and programs.	7.28
14	<del>Expanded partnerships to support parks</del> <del>open/green spaces</del> and recreation resources and programs	14.A. Continue to support and <del>work</del> <del>expand</del> <del>partnerships</del> with <del>Parkway Partners</del> and support <del>expansion of</del> <del>private partners; non-profit</del> <del>partners</del> , park, <del>green space</del> and neutral ground "Friends" groups, as well as existing <del>NORD</del> <del>NORDC</del> <del>booster and Friends groups</del> and <del>hire a</del> <del>volunteer coordinator to develop and manage a</del> <del>network of "Friends" groups</del> <del>for parks</del> .	7.29
15	<del>Effective marketing of the</del> <del>municipal</del> park and recreation systems to citizens and visitors	15.A. <del>Utilize the arts when</del> <del>Providing</del> <del>user-friendly</del> communications, including an interactive web site, annual reports, consistent signage, and similar efforts.	7.29



# fact sheet

## PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION

### Park and Recreation Resources (as of 2009)

- New Orleans has ~~26,164~~ **27,110** acres of park land, or **23.3%** of the city's land area
- - 22,770 of those acres are in Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge
  - The total does not include neutral grounds, school and institutional green space, levees, or urban wilds
  - In ~~2009~~ **2010**, not counting the wildlife refuge, there were about **13** acres of park land per 1,000 persons
- Almost half the city's park was acquired by donation or other non-purchase method
- Major parks include:
  - City Park: 1213 acres
  - Audubon Park 400 acres
  - Lakeshore Park: 400 acres
  - Pontchartrain Park: 198 acres
  - Joe Brown Park and Louisiana Nature Center: 193 acres
  - Brechtel Park: ~~112~~ **220** acres
  - Behrman Park: 60 acres
  - Lafitte Greenway: 26 acres
  - Lincoln Beach: 24 acres (closed before Katrina)
  - West End Park: 23 acres
  - **Crescent Park: 20 acres**
  - Woldenberg Riverfront Park: 16 acres
- 14 multi-purpose neighborhood parks including 9 stadiums pre-Katrina
  - 5 stadiums currently restored
- 83 neighborhood parks and playgrounds pre-Katrina
  - 60+ playgrounds currently restored
- 64 pocket parks
- 19 public swimming pools pre-Katrina
  - 7 currently restored
- 10 recreation centers pre-Katrina
  - 5 currently restored
- **7.4** public and 4 private golf courses
- 7 historic urban squares
- ~~43 park and recreation recovery projects are currently underway by ORDA~~
- ~~A new downtown riverfront park is being designed~~

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- New Orleans has an enviable network and inventory of park land for an urban center.
- Not counting Bayou Sauvage, in 2010 the city had about 13 acres of park land per 1,000 persons, comparing favorably with many US cities.
- In most neighborhoods, most residents have a park within walking distance.
- Neighborhood park deficits are found especially in some older neighborhoods and parts of New Orleans East.
- Effective maintenance of parks was a challenge pre-Katrina as well as since Katrina.
- Many parks and recreation facilities, and the city's urban forest, were significantly damaged by Katrina and are still in the process of restoration.
- City Park had a master plan completed before the storm that has served as a foundation for post-storm restoration.
- The city's neutral grounds are an exceptional resource.
- The city does not take sufficient advantage of its water resources as an amenity or for recreation.

### Additional Green Resources:

- 125 acres in two 19<sup>th</sup> century forts in state parks: Fort Pike and Fort McComb
- Jean LaFitte National Historic Park
- 22 miles of Mississippi River waterfront
- 16.5 miles of lakefront with four major boat harbors
- More than 250 miles of neutral grounds ranging from 2 feet to 350 feet wide
- 54 active community gardens pre-Katrina
  - 25+ currently re-established
- Recreation programs focus on youth; some adult and senior fitness programs
- Non-profit partners ~~including Parkway Partners and Friends of NORD~~ community based organizations
- Bike and pedestrian paths on levee sections on the river and lakefront, along Bayou St. John, and in several neutral grounds throughout the city, including: West End/Pontchartrain Boulevards, Galvez Street, Napoleon Avenue, Jefferson Davis Parkway, Lake Forest Drive, and St. Anthony Street.

### Park and Recreation Management

- Divided among four entities with different funding sources:
  - New Orleans Department of Parks and Parkways
  - New Orleans Recreation ~~Department~~ **Development Commission** (NORDC)
  - City Park Improvement Association
  - Audubon Commission
  - French Market Corporation
- Maintenance and funding are persistent issues for city-funded parks and recreation
- Pre-Katrina per-capita funding was better than many southern cities and slightly above the national average, but New Orleans had greater needs as a denser city with more income diversity

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## FINDINGS

- Parks and open space within the boundaries of New Orleans include extensive wetland natural areas as well as passive and active parks.
- New Orleans has an extensive urban park system with ~~ana~~ large inventory of park lands that are generally well-distributed throughout the city. Excluding Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, New Orleans had approximately ~~3000~~**4340** acres of park land in ~~2009~~**2015**, giving it more than many southern cities.
- New Orleans lost approximately 100,000 trees as a result of Hurricane Katrina. **About 50,000 new trees have been planted as of 2016.**
- Management of the city's park and recreation system is ~~fragmented~~**divided** among several city departments, parish and state agencies, and tax-supported nonprofit organizations.
- Most New Orleans residents are now within one-third mile walking distance of some kind of park.
- The city before Hurricane Katrina had an extensive recreation infrastructure, but many facilities were extremely outdated and in disrepair. Moreover, salaries for **parks and** recreation department employees are very low, making it difficult to build a more professionalized staff.
- Funding for municipal park and recreation agencies has historically fluctuated considerably from year to year.
- ~~The City does not have a unified park and recreation department, as is common in most cities.~~
- New Orleans ~~currently~~ has ~~few~~**expanded** designated walking ~~or~~**and** biking trails **using the Greenway, enhanced neutral grounds, and adding over 150 miles of bike lanes on road repair projects.**
- Recreation facilities are focused on children and youth, team athletics, and—to a lesser extent—senior citizen activities.

## CHALLENGES

- Ensuring effective coordination among the various entities and agencies that manage park land and provide recreation facilities in New Orleans.
- Restoring and enhancing the tree canopy and plantings damaged by Hurricane Katrina.
- Offering more recreation and fitness activities for adults of all ages while continuing to focus on recreation for children and youth, particularly those from low-income households.
- Providing a consistent funding mechanism.
- Providing consistent, high quality maintenance.
- Incorporating maintenance planning in capital improvement programs.
- Effectively serving a very diverse population.

### Acronyms

To aid in reading this section, below is a list of acronyms used within the text:

<b>CAO</b>	Chief Administrative Officer	<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information Systems
<b>CDBG</b>	Community Development Block Grant	<b>LUFC</b>	Louisiana Urban Forestry Council
<b>CPC</b>	City Planning Commission	<b>NORA</b>	New Orleans Redevelopment Authority
<b>CPIA</b>	City Park Improvement Association	<b><del>NORD</del></b>	<b><del>New Orleans Recreation Department</del></b>
<b>NPP</b>	Neighborhood Participation Program	<b>NORDC</b>	New Orleans Recreation Development Commission
<b>CZO</b>	Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance	<b>OFCD</b>	Office of Facilities, Infrastructure and Community Development
<b>D-CDBG</b>	Disaster Community Development Block Grant	<b>RPC</b>	Regional Planning Commission
<b>DPW</b>	Department of Public Works	<b>RTA</b>	Regional Transit Authority
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency	<b><del>NOBA</del></b>	<b><del>New Orleans Building Corporation</del></b>
<b>FEMA</b>	Federal emergency Management Administration	<b><u>NEO</u></b>	<b><u>Neighborhood Engagement Office</u></b>

## A Introduction

Excellent parks, recreational resources for adults as well as children and youth, and access to water and nature are key ingredients of the quality of life city dwellers desire in the 21st century. New Orleans' system of parks, open spaces, and recreation resources is one of its most important assets. Excluding the 22,000 acres of Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, the city had approximately ~~3,000~~ 4,340 acres of park land in ~~2009~~2015, more than many southern cities, with parks generally well-distributed throughout the city. ~~This chapter includes Today,~~ the traditional elements of park and recreation planning ~~are situated within the broader concept of "green infrastructure."~~ This includes the ~~connector~~ network of parks, tree-lined streets, bike trails and lanes, pedestrian paths, river and stream corridors, waterfronts, and urban wilds of the city. Responsibility for New Orleans' ~~green infrastructure system~~ parks open space and recreation resources is divided among a number of public and nonprofit entities, making coordination a challenge.

The Master Plan focuses on maintaining and enhancing the city's parks, open space and recreation resources ~~green infrastructure~~ through:

- Protecting resources
- Expanding access to parks, recreation and to waterfronts
- Creating open space connections through green ways and blue ways throughout the city
- Ensuring that recreation meets the changing needs of youth and adults
- Strengthening financial and operational support to ensure high levels of maintenance and programming
- Expanding partnerships

## EQUITY

Access to beautiful parks and open space for all constituents is a hallmark of a city's commitment to Equity. We shall continue to leverage resources for the development of parks and recreation space to communities of highest need, enlisting a range of public and institutional partners, such as schools to make open spaces that they control can be made available for community use. Public transportation must also increase access to parks and open space by offering multiple modes of transit, such as buses and bicycles. Our parks must also accommodate a wide variety of activities by providing multi-use recreation spaces.



## B Recommendations

A recommendations **Summary** linking goals, strategies and actions appears below and is followed by one or more early-action items under the heading **Getting Started**. The **Narrative** follows, providing a detailed description of how the strategies and actions further the goals. Background and existing conditions to inform understanding of the goals, policies, strategies and actions are included in Volume 3, Chapter 7.

### Summary

FIRST FIVE YEARS: ~~2010–2014~~[2016–2020](#)MEDIUM TERM: ~~2015–2019~~[2020–2025](#)LONG TERM: ~~2020–2025~~[2030](#)

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS				
		HOW	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCE S	FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE:
1. Protection of remaining wetland areas inside and outside the levee system	1.A. <del>Review and revise as needed-</del> <del>Ensure regulations that it</del> and use and zoning categories for wetlands and coastal areas <del>to</del> promote wetland preservation.	1. Prohibit further drainage of wetlands for development both inside and outside the levees.	CPC	First five years	CZO <del>amendment</del> rewrite contract	<del>7.13–7.14</del>
		2. <del>Maintain</del> Establish regulations and enforcement systems to protect wetlands, such as a city wetlands protection ordinance.	Coastal and Environmental Affairs; City Attorney; City Council	First five years	Staff time	<del>7.14</del>
	1.B. Seek conservation solutions for wetlands <del>through permanent protection or acquisition by conservation organizations.</del>	1. Discuss options with Bayou Sauvage and environmental organizations.	Coastal and Environmental Affairs; Trust for Public Land; US Department of the Interior	Medium term	Staff time; federal or nonprofit funding	<del>7.14</del>
2. Restoration and expansion of the New Orleans's urban forest to reach 50 percent tree canopy by 2030	2.A. Promote tree planting on <del>both public and private</del> property.	1. <del>2.A.6, and 2.A.7.</del> Inventory <del>and</del> <del>Prepare a city-wide</del> tree <del>canopy</del> and vegetation <del>(including public right-of-way and neutral ground areas)</del> layers, <del>documenting value attributes etc., in a digital format to allow GIS layer and analyze it</del> analysis with appropriate tree cover to include <del>using</del> software that <del>to track</del> <del>s</del> <del>vegetative changes over time.</del>	Parks <del>and</del> Parkways; City GIS Department, <del>DPW; unit, Louisiana Urban Forestry Council (LUFC); consultant</del>	<del>First five years</del> <del>Medium-term</del>	Louisiana <del>Depart</del> <del>Dept.</del> of Agriculture and Forestry; <del>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service,</del> Urban and Community Grants; Alliance for Community Trees Grants; Chevron Grants; grants; general fund; <del>Staff time</del>	<del>7.14–7.15</del>

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS				
		HOW	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES	FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE:
		2.4 Prepare a <u>street tree and vegetation</u> master plan to <u>plant street trees</u> , <u>address public lands</u> throughout the city.	Parks and <del>&amp;</del> Parkways; City GIS <del>unit</del> Department: <del>CPC</del> ; <del>Louisiana Urban Forestry Council (LUFC)</del> ; <u>consultant</u>	<del>Medium-term</del> <u>First five years</u>	Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry; <del>U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service</del> ; <del>Urban and Community Grants</del> ; <del>Alliance for Community Trees Grants</del> ; <del>Chevron Grants</del> ; <u>grants; general fund</u>	<del>7.15</del>
		<del>3. 2.A.9.</del> Identifying priority areas for planting, species <u>selection palettes</u> , <u>best practices BMPs</u> , etc.	<del>Parks &amp; Parkways</del> ; <del>NORDC</del> ; <del>DPW</del> ; <del>SWBNO</del>	Medium term	Staff time; <del>possible consultant (approx. \$200K, depending on scope)</del>	<del>7.16</del>
		<del>4. 2.A.8</del> Work with utility companies to develop & refine protocol for conflicts and to develop a public information document.	Parks & Parkways; SWBNO; DPW; Utility Companies; Communications	First five years	Staff time	<del>7.16</del>
		<del>2.A.1 6.</del> Inventory the city's public trees and overall tree canopy.		Medium term	Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry; <del>Urban and Community Grants</del> ; <del>Alliance for Community Tree Grants</del> ; <del>hevron Grants</del>	<del>7.16</del>
		<del>2.A.1 7.</del> Prepare a GIS layer with <del>street trees</del> and <del>neutral grounds</del> vegetation.	<del>Parks and Parkways</del> ; <del>City GIS unit</del> ; <del>Louisiana Urban Forestry Council (LUFC)</del>	Medium-term	(See above)	<del>7.16</del>
		<del>5. Create a no net loss of tree canopy strategy for public and private property</del>	<del>Parks &amp; Parkways</del> ; <del>NORDC</del> ; <del>CBDG</del>	<del>First five years</del>	<del>Staff; non-profit organizations</del>	
		<del>6. Establish criteria for "Heritage Trees" to inform future development; Inventory the city's public trees and overall tree canopy. Identify as "heritage trees" as those trees of native species, significant size (e.g.,</del>	<del>Parks &amp; Parkways</del> ; <del>NORDC</del> ; <del>CBDG</del>	<del>First five years</del>	<del>Staff; non-profit organizations</del>	

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS				
		HOW	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES	FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE:
		<u>top 20% by caliper), located along public corridors. Use additional criteria as appropriate. Consider additional protections for qualifying trees and appropriate incentives for their retention.</u>				
	<b>2.C.B.</b> Promote tree preservation <u>and planting</u> on private property.	<u>1. 2.C1, 2.C2, 2.C3 Work with non-profits and neighborhood organizations to encourage homeowners and other private property owners to preserve and plant trees on private property.</u>	<u>Parks &amp; Parkways; DPW; SWBNO; NORA; Communications Non-profit partners</u>	<u>ongoing</u>	<u>Staff time; non-profit partners; volunteers; grants; donations</u>	<u>7.15</u>
		<u>2. 2A.4: Improve the city's tree and vegetation protection ordinance (Chapter 106, Article IV).</u>	Parks & Parkways; <u>CPC</u> ; City Attorney; City Council	<u>First five years; Medium-term</u>	Staff time	<u>7.15</u>
		<u>3 2.A.5: Maintain Require tree planting in the public right-of-way as part of any new development, where appropriate, as part of commercial or mixed-use development, where appropriate.</u>	<u>CPC, Parks and Parkways</u>	<u>ongoing; First five years</u>	<u>CZO amendment</u>	<u>7.16</u>
		<u>2.B1, 2.C1: Include trees in landscape standards in the new CZO.</u>	<u>CPC</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>CZO rewrite</u>	<u>7.17</u>
		<u>2.B1 2.C.2: Work with non-profits and neighborhood organizations to encourage private tree planting on vacant properties.</u>	<u>Parks &amp; Parkways; Parkway Partners</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff time; nonprofit partners; volunteers</u>	<u>7.17</u>
		<u>2.B1 2.C.3: Encourage homeowners and other property owners to plant trees on their property.</u>	<u>Parks &amp; Parkways; Parkway Partners</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff time; nonprofit partners; volunteers</u>	<u>7.17</u>
	<b>2.C.B.</b> Restore and plant new trees in parks, <u>green spaces</u> , and neutral grounds.	<u>1. Continue to work with non-profits who donate trees to the city. and develop a program with attractive markers to indicate the donations.</u>	<u>Parks &amp; Parkways; DPW; SWBNO; NORA;</u>	<u>ongoing; First five years</u>	Donations	<u>7.16</u>
		<u>2. Create Assist with the creation of tree nurseries on city-owned vacant <u>and private</u> land for public plantings and, if feasible,</u>	<u>Parks &amp; Parkways; Parkway Partners; NORA</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff time; nonprofit partners</u>	<u>7.16</u>

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS				
		HOW	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES	FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE:
		for donation to property owners.				
	<b>2.D. <u>Develop and</u></b> <del>e</del> Establish storm water management <del>planting</del> -practices in public <del>parks</del> , green spaces, <del>and neutral grounds</del> .	<b>1. <u>Prepare a comprehensive manual to include BMPs for use by city departments and the public to meet the city's storm water management and Resilience goals.</u></b>	<b><u>City Council</u>, <u>CAO's Office</u>, <u>CPC</u>; Parks &amp; <u>Parkways</u>; <u>DPW</u>; <u>NORA</u>; <u>SWBNO</u>; <u>Office of Sustainability</u></b>	<b><u>First five years</u></b>	<b><u>Staff time</u>; <u>general fund</u></b>	
		<b><u>2.2.D.1</u> Replace most lawn areas in neutral grounds and street swales with <u>shrubs and ground-cover sides</u> with <u>bioswales</u>, <u>plantings</u> and <u>appropriate green infrastructure</u>, when <u>necessary amending the soil to accommodate increased rainwater detention</u>.</b>	Parks & Parkways; <del>public</del> education through <del>Levee Board</del> ; <del>Parkway Partners</del>	Medium term	Staff education and training; grants <del>for public awareness</del> ; grow plants in nursery	<del>7.17</del>
<b>3. A</b> commitment to no net loss of park land	<b>3.A.</b> Establish systems <u>and funding</u> to ensure that the city does not lose acreage dedicated to parks.	1. Require enhanced public review of disposition of public parkland and apply any funds from sales of parkland to acquisition of new parkland.	Parks & Parkways; CPC; City Council; <u>Real Estate &amp; Records</u> ; <u>NORDC</u>	<u>ongoing</u> <u>First five years</u>	Staff time	<del>7.18</del>
		2. Create a Parks <del>and recreation</del> Trust Fund or similar accounts within the Capital Projects Fund to receive funds for acquisition, <del>and</del> improvement <del>and maintenance</del> of parkland.	Parks & Parkways; CAO's Office; CPC; <u>City Council</u> ; <u>Real Estate &amp; Records</u>	First five years	Staff time	<del>7.19</del>
		3. Evaluate any public property identified for sale for suitability as a park <del>or</del> recreation site, <del>or</del> <u>stormwater management</u> .	<u>CPC</u> ; <u>NORDC</u> ; Parks & Parkways; City Attorney; City Council; <u>SWBNO</u> ; <u>DPW</u> ; <u>NORA</u>	<u>Medium-term</u> <u>ongoing</u>	Staff time	<del>7.19</del>
<b>4. A</b> park within walking distance approximately <del>one-third</del> <u>1/3</u> mile of every New Orleans resident	<b>4. A.</b> Balance pas- passive and active uses of parks and public spaces <u>while keeping them accessible to all residents</u> .	1. Provide <u>open fields</u> , <u>tree-shaded areas</u> , walking paths <u>for walking</u> , <u>running</u> , <u>biking</u> , <u>and/or</u> similar uses, seating, <u>water fountains</u> and <u>similar low impact amenities</u> , and programming (activities such as concerts, festivals, etc.) <del>in</del> parks, <u>open/green spaces</u> and <u>neutral grounds that are not managed by NORD</u> in order to <del>ensure that</del>	Parks & Parkways; <u>Dept of Public Works</u> <u>NORDC</u> ; <u>DPW</u> ; <u>Capital Projects Administration</u> ; <u>non-profit partners</u> ; <u>Regional Park Administrators</u>	<u>ongoing</u> <u>First five years</u>	Variable, according to project, activity or event	<del>7.20</del>

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS				
		HOW	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES	FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE:
		<del>residential use, s can and will use them.</del>				
		2. <del>Provide Make improvements in</del> safe walking routes to parks, <u>utilizing artistic intervention.</u>	<del>NORD or successor</del> <u>NORDC</u> ; Parks & Parkways; DPW; <u>Arts Council of New Orleans</u> , <u>other sanctioned government organizations</u>	Medium term	<del>Seek grants from Public health grants.</del> <u>Safe Routes to Schools funding program grants (Federal, state, and private)</u> public-health funders, such as Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	<del>7-20</del>
		3. <u>Establish systems to use vacant public lots and other public properties, such as schools, as full time or part time neighborhood parks.</u>	<u>NORDC, Parks and Parkways</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff time</u>	
	<u>4B. Prioritize creation of new parks or playgrounds where there is no park within walking distance and provide access to resources of citywide importance, such as the waterfront.</u>	1. <u>Build new parks for underserved areas by using vacant, publicly-owned parcels – especially parcels which were intended though never developed, for parks and/or community facilities.</u> 3. <u>Prioritize creation of new parks or playgrounds for underserved areas where there is no park within walking distance and for access to resources of citywide importance, such as the waterfront.</u>	<del>CPC; NORD or successor</del> <u>organization; NORDC; Capital Projects Administration; Parks &amp; Parkways; Real Estate and Records</u>	<del>Medium term</del> <u>First five years</u>	<del>CDBG; general fund; Staff time</del>	<del>7-20</del>
		<u>2. Restore vacant or closed neighborhood parks in underserved with programming to meet the needs of residents.</u>	<u>Parks &amp; Parkways; NORDC;</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff; non-profit organizations; CDBG</u>	
5. More public access to waterfronts	<u>5.A. Create parks and public spaces along the Mississippi River, and Lake Pontchartrain, and other water ways and wetlands and ensure access to the public.</u>	1. <u>Enhance parks and public access along the Mississippi River, allowing open/green space to dominate.</u>	<u>New Orleans Building Corp.; Port of New Orleans; USACE; French Market Corp.</u>	First five years	D-CDBG	<del>7-24</del>
		2. <u>Enhance park land along Lake Pontchartrain, including Lincoln Beach.</u>	<u>Levee Board; OFICD; Municipal Yacht Harbor</u>	Medium term	D-CDBG;	<del>7-24</del>

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS				
		HOW	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCE S	FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE:
		3. Enhance the amenity value of canals and drainage facilities when possible.	Levee Board; OFICD; <a href="#">SWBNO</a> ; <a href="#">DPW; Parks &amp; Parkways</a>	First five years	Levee resources	<a href="#">7-21</a>
		<a href="#">4. Enhance the existing public edge along the Mississippi River</a>	<a href="#">NOBC, CPC, NORDC, Parks &amp; Parkways</a>	<a href="#">Next Five Years</a>		
		<a href="#">5. Link existing water assets</a>	<a href="#">CPC; SWBNO; DPW: Office of Coastal and Environmental Affairs; NORA; Levee Board</a>	<a href="#">Medium term</a>	<a href="#">General funds, private foundations, federal grants</a>	
6. More green Connections throughout the city	6.A. Create linear parks and green ways for multi-use pathways using the city's neutral grounds and other linear connections, such as levees, canal edges and rail lines.	1. Connect people to parks and neighborhood destinations by tree-lined "Green Complete Streets" and coordinate the net-work with transit stops and bike boulevards. (See Chapter 13)	CPC; <del>planning with</del> Parks & Parkways; DPW; RTA	Medium term	Variable, according to project	<a href="#">7-22</a>
		2. Work with the Regional Planning Commission and other groups to connect with regional pathways such as the multi-state Mississippi Trail.	DPW; RPC; <a href="#">Capital Projects Administration</a>	Medium term	Staff time	<a href="#">7-22</a>
		3. Explore creation of "blueways" as designated water recreation routes and other boating opportunities. Inventory opportunities and work with local boating groups.	Levee Board; Sewerage & Water Board; private groups	Long term	Variable	<a href="#">7-22</a>
		4. Explore the feasibility of daylighting canals that have been covered over and creating additional canals for water storage and amenity--	See Volume 2, Chapter 12 and Volume 3, Chapter 12 for more detailed discussion.	Long term	Variable	<a href="#">7-23</a>
		5. Use neutral grounds, levees, canal edges and rail lines as potential greenway connectors	Parks & Parkways; Levee Board; DPW; <a href="#">NORA; SWBNO</a>	Medium term	Variable according to project	<a href="#">7-23</a>
		<a href="#">6 Encourage private owners to develop short to medium term public creative common space throughout neighborhoods supporting the creative use of lots that are underutilized</a>	<a href="#">CPC; CAO; NORA; Arts Council of New Orleans; Parks &amp; Parkways</a>	<a href="#">Medium term</a>	<a href="#">Staff time</a>	
7. Maintenance of existing	7.A. Establish expanded maintenance criteria.	1. Create a committee with staff and citizens to develop goals and criteria	Parks & Parkways; <a href="#">NORDC or successor</a> ; <a href="#">NORDC; SWBNO</a>	First five years	Staff time	<a href="#">7-23</a>

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS				
		HOW	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES	FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE:
parks, green/ <u>open</u> spaces, and recreational sites to a high level		<del>and a photo system as in San Francisco.</del>	<u>Levee Board; DPW; NORA</u>			
		2. Work with partnership groups to enhance maintenance. <del>Encourage partnership groups to</del> and assist <del>in</del> with maintenance.	Parks & Parkways; <del>NORDC or successor</del> <u>NORDC; SWBNO; Levee Board; DPW; NORA</u>	Medium term	Staff time	<del>7-24</del>
		3. Encourage partnership groups <del>to</del> <u>assist with maintenance</u> and <del>criteria and a photo system as in San Francisco.</del>	Parks & Parkways; <del>NORDC or successor</del>	<del>Medium term</del> <u>ongoing</u>	Staff time	<del>7-24</del>
		<u>4. Develop partnerships to support the funding of a maintenance endowment for the City's parks, open/green spaces, and recreation sites based upon a City-approved 20-year maintenance plan</u>	<u>Parks and Parkways; NORDC; Mayor's Office; City's Law Department</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff time</u>	
	<b>7.B.</b> Establish clear and permanent policies and procedures for accepting, placing and maintaining public art in parks, green spaces and recreation sites.	1. Adopt <del>and a Public Artwork Donation Policy</del> that sets specific policies and <del>procedures</del> <u>procedures</u> for all aspects of accepting, installing and maintaining public art.	<del>City Planning; CPC; Arts Council; Parks and Parkways; Property Management; Mgmt.; Capital Projects, Historic Districts &amp; Landmarks Commission</del> <u>HDLG; DPW</u>	Ongoing	Staff time	<del>7-24</del>
	<b>7.C.</b> Establish and maintain storm water infrastructure in <u>public spaces.</u>	<u>1. Fund and staff storm water maintenance team(s) with specialized training to manage and develop storm water infrastructure on public lands.</u>	<u>Parks &amp; Parkways; DPW; NORA; SWBNO; Office of Sustainability</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff time; general fund</u>	
	<b>7.D.</b> <u>Research the history and design of parks, open/green spaces, and recreation sites to develop, restore, redesign, reconstruct, and maintain the areas.</u>	<u>1. Inventory and analyze any existing original landscape designs and any recently implemented or proposed restorations of neighborhood parks, open/green spaces, and recreation sites.</u>	<u>Parks &amp; Parkways; NORDC; CBDG</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff; non-profit organizations</u>	

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS				
		HOW	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES	FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE:
		<u>2. Gather research of each individual park, open/green space, and recreation site including history, architectural and horticultural styles, and include the social, economic and environmental development role of each.</u>	<u>Parks &amp; Parkways; NORDC</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff; non-profit organizations; CBDG</u>	
		<u>3. Hold workshops on park, open/green space, and recreation site usage, restoration, redesign, reconstruction, and maintenance with nearby residents and property owners</u>	<u>Parks &amp; Parkways; NORDC</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff; non-profit organizations; CBDG</u>	
		<u>4. Prepare a preliminary design that takes into account Smart Growth principles and sustainability issues, and includes a discussion of storm water management priorities</u>	<u>Parks &amp; Parkways; NORDC</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff; non-profit organizations; CBDG</u>	
		<u>5. Implement plans to restore, redesign, and reconstruct parks, open/green spaces and recreation sites using an annual 'phased' approach, taking into consideration:</u> <u>a. Extant plant materials, their preservation and nurturance;</u> <u>b. The addition of lower maintenance plant materials;</u> <u>c. Recreational and open space use priorities (i.e., passive and active recreational uses);</u> <u>d. Land use changes impacting the nature of each adjacent neighborhood;</u> <u>e. The traditional character and history of each site</u>	<u>Parks &amp; Parkways; NORDC</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff; non-profit organizations; CBDG</u>	
8. Multi-use indoor/outdoor recreation centers within 5 miles of every resident	8.A. Create <del>10</del> 6 indoor pools at existing centers.	1. Identify sites and invest in pools.	<del>NORDC</del> successor <u>NORDC</u>	First five years	D-CDBG; FEMA; <del>municipal</del> <u>millage</u> for operating costs	<del>7-24</del>



GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS				
		HOW	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES	FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE:
	<b>8.B.</b> Coordinate recreation resources with schools and other community and human services.	1. Meet regularly with non-NORDC providers to streamline services.	<del>NORDC or successor</del> ; <u>NORDC; Parks and Parkways; School Districts; human services providers</u>	Medium term	Staff time	<del>7-24</del>
		2. Explore collaborations with school districts and other organizations to establish joint use of facilities agreements.	School Districts, NORDC	First five years	Staff time, Cooperative agreements	<del>7-25</del>
<b>9.</b> Year-round recreation opportunities for children, seniors, and adults	<b>9.A.</b> Provide recreational opportunities appropriate to the demographics of the surrounding neighborhoods.	1. Focus child and youth-oriented activities in neighborhoods with higher numbers of family households.	<del>NORDC or successor</del> ; <u>NORDC</u>	First five years	Staff time	<del>7-25</del>
		2. Continue to focus on 40 supervised playgrounds to be sports program hubs.	<del>NORDC or successor</del> ; <u>NORDC</u>	First five years	D-CDBG	<del>7-25</del>
		3. Work with private programs and the Council on Aging to develop more senior programs.	<del>NORDC or successor</del> ; <u>NORDC</u> ; Council on Aging	First five years	Fees, where appropriate	<del>7-25</del>
		4. Promote youth and adult fitness through facilities and programs.	<del>NORDC or successor</del> ; <u>NORDC</u>	First five years	Fees, where appropriate	<del>7-25</del>
		5. Provide dog parks through a community process where there is high demand.	<u>Parks &amp; Parkways; NORDC; Capital Projects Administration</u>	First five years	In existing <u>public or</u> park land	<del>7-25</del>
		<u>6. Provide recreational facilities/attractions such as fountains/spray parks and play equipment as amenities for children and teens.</u>	<u>NORDC</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff time; Existing/new park land; fees, where appropriate</u>	
		<u>7. Promote and provide a space for community-led cultural programming in all city-run recreation and community centers</u>	<u>NORDC; cultural organizations</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff time; Existing/new NORDC facilities; fees, where appropriate</u>	
<b>10.</b> Recreation offerings that meet changing citizen needs	<b>10.A.</b> Regularly monitor the recreation needs of all segments of the population.	1. Survey residents through the internet and more rigorous methods on a regular basis to keep up with changing recreation needs and desires.	<del>NORDC</del> ; Parks & Parkways; <u>NORDC</u>	Every 5 years	Survey—approx. \$30,000	<del>7-26</del>
		2. Provide for individual activities as well as team sports and classes.	<del>NORDC</del> ; <u>NORDC</u>	Medium term	Fees, where appropriate	<del>7-26</del>

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS				
		HOW	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES	FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE:
11. More effective coordination and cost-effective management of parks, <u>open/green spaces</u> and recreation resources and programs, <u>and the Public Art in those spaces</u>	11.A. Coordinate parks, <u>open/green spaces</u> , and recreation resources and activities throughout the city.	1. Establish an interagency parks and recreation coordinating group for all relevant city, nonprofit, private, and parish agencies.	Convened by CPC; all park management groups; private recreation providers	First five years	Staff time	<del>7-26</del>
12. Neighborhood participation in decision-making about parks and recreation	12.A. Survey both park and recreation users on a regular basis.	1. Require instructors to use evaluation forms in classes.	<del>NORD</del> <u>NORDC</u>	First five years	Staff time	<del>7-27</del>
		2. Use the web page for surveys; free web-based survey utilities are available.	<del>NORD</del> <u>NORDC</u> ; City IT	First five years	Staff time	<del>7-27</del>
		3. Conduct a scientific survey every 10 years.	<del>NORD</del> <u>NORDC</u>	Long term	\$30,000	<del>7-27</del>
		<u>4. Creatively survey users of parks and recreation through creative place-making practices, on a regular basis</u>	<u>Arts Council of New Orleans; other similar organizations; Parks &amp; Parkways; NORDC</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff time</u>	
	12.B. Establish a system for community input in park and recreation design and improvements.	1. Integrate a system with the <u>Neighborhood Participation Plan</u> <del>PP</del> district council system to be developed.	<u>NORDC; Parks &amp; Parkways with neighborhood/community participation; NEOCPC working through NPP organization to be developed</u>	First five years	Staff time	<del>7-27</del>
	12.C. Prepare and update <del>a a city wide</del> <u>parks, full parks and recreation master plan and regional parks</u> master plans regularly.	<u>1. 2. Update the plan every 10 years, conduct an amendment process every five years which includes including a full public participation element.</u>	<del>GPC, working with NORDC; and Parks &amp; Parkways; Regional Parks Administration, Neighborhood/community input</del>	<u>Ongoing</u> <del>Long-term</del>	<u>Staff time;</u> General Fund; grants; approx. \$500-600,000	<del>7-28</del>
		<u>2. Intergrate community and cultural assets in public spaces through public art and design intervention while including public/community input.</u>	<u>Arts Council of New Orleans; Parks &amp; Parkways; DPW;</u>	<u>ongoing</u>	<u>Staff time</u>	

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS				
		HOW	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES	FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE:
		<u>3. Amend the CZO to incorporate Master Plan regulations for regional parks similar to the existing Institutional Master Plan regulations in the CZO.</u>	<u>CPC; City Council</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff time</u>	
13. Consistent and adequate level of maintenance, operations and programming on a per capita basis.	13.A. Provide a consistent and adequate per capita operating budget and work towards establishing a dedicated funding source for municipal park and recreation resources and programs.	1. Provide a consistent and adequate per capita operating budget.	Voters	First five years	Millage vote	<del>7-28</del>
		2. Continue to work with partnership groups and grant makers to supplement funding.	<u>NORD</u> <u>NORDC</u> ; <u>Parks &amp; Parkway</u> <del>s</del> <u>Parkways</u> ; non-profits; <u>CAO</u> ; <u>City Council</u>	First five years	Grants; volunteer activities	<del>7-28</del>
		3. Pursue joint use agreements with public and private entities who own land that could add to park and recreation opportunities.	<u>NORD</u> <u>Parks &amp; Parkway</u> <del>s</del> <u>Parkways</u> ; <u>NORDC</u> ; private groups	Medium term	Variable	<del>7-29</del>
		4. Establish fees appropriate to the program and level of community or individual benefit and reserve fees for park and <del>recreation</del> uses.	<u>NORD</u> <u>Parks &amp; Parkway</u> <del>s</del> <u>Parkways</u> ; <u>NORDC</u>	Medium term	Variable according to activity	<del>7-29</del>
14. Expanded partnerships to support parks, <u>open/green spaces</u> and recreation resources and programs	14.A. Continue to support and <u>work expand partnerships</u> with <u>Parkway Partners</u> and <u>support expansion of private partners; non-profit partners.</u> park, green space, and neutral ground "Friends" groups, as well as existing <u>NORD</u> <u>NORDC booster</u> and Friends groups. <u>and hire a volunteer coordinator to develop and manage a network of "Friends" groups for parks, open/green spaces, and recreation resources and programs.</u>	1. Expand park and neutral ground <del>Friends</del> <u>Friends</u> groups; <u>and</u> <u>Booster groups</u> ; <u>and hire a volunteer coordinator.</u>	<u>Parks &amp; Parkway</u> <del>s</del> ; <u>NORD</u> <u>or successor</u> <u>NORDC</u>	Medium term	<u>Staff position</u> ; <u>Staff time</u> ; <u>non-profit organizations and community groups</u>	<del>7-29</del>

GOAL	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	RECOMMENDED ACTIONS				
		HOW	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES	FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE:
		<u>2. Establish a not-for-profit org. . . operating under an authorizing MOU with the City of New Orleans, to develop a series of partnerships among City, Parish, State, Federal, Private Foundation, Corporate Foundation and Corporate Resources to restore, redesign, reconstruct and maintain parks, open/green spaces and recreation resources and programs</u>	<u>Parks and Parkways; NORDC; Mayor's Office, City's Law Department</u>	<u>First five years</u>	<u>Staff time</u>	
15. Effective marketing of the municipal park and recreation system to citizens and visitors	<u>15.A. Utilize the arts when providing</u> user- friendly communications, including an interactive web site, an annual report, consistent signage and similar efforts.	1. Improve the web pages, provide an annual report, and consistent signage.	<u>Park &amp; Parkways; NORDC; City ITI Department; consultants</u>	Medium term	<u>Staff time; consultants; general fund-</u>	<u>7-29</u>
		<u>2. Utilize the creative assets of the city to provide art and design that enhances public spaces. Work with the city's designated arts organizations to develop creative way-finding and signage initiatives throughout the city.</u>	<u>Arts Council of New Orleans; CPC; DPW; New Orleans Downtown Development District</u>	<u>Medium term</u>	<u>Staff time</u>	

## Getting Started

These items are short-term actions that can be undertaken with relatively little expenditure, and will help lay the groundwork for the longer-term actions that follow.

- ~~Use the Lafitte Greenway, now under design, as a model for future greenway projects.~~
- ~~Prepare a tree & vegetation master plan with GIS based tree inventory.~~
- Convene an inter-agency parks and recreations coordinating group including all city, nonprofit, private, and parish agencies.
- Develop a local wetlands protection ordinance.

## Narrative

Below is a more detailed narrative of the various goals, strategies and actions highlighted in the “Summary” chart.

### 1. ~~GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND~~ NATURAL OPEN SPACE

#### GOAL 1

#### Protection of remaining wetland areas inside and outside the levee system



~~The state of Louisiana does not define wetlands for regulatory purposes, but does define a coastal zone in which jurisdiction is based on elevation and hydrologic characteristics. The state's Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan, adopted in 1997, has what is effectively a no net loss policy for wetlands (replacement required for wetlands loss). Although the entire City of New Orleans is part of the regulated coastal zone, all of the city within the levees is designated as “fastland” for which there is no regulation relating to wetlands. Activities that affect wetlands outside the levees are regulated by the city's Coastal Management Program, which is required to be compatible with the state's program. Under the authority of the Louisiana State~~

~~and Local Coastal Resources Management Act of 1978, as amended (Act 361, La. R.S. 49:214.21 et seq), the State of Louisiana defines wetlands. Furthermore, the state defines a coastal zone in which jurisdiction is based on elevation and hydrologic characteristics.~~

For the purposes of this chapter, and following the Clean Water Act, wetlands will be defined as those areas that are saturated by water (surface water or groundwater) sufficiently to support vegetation that is adapted to living in saturated soils. (EPA Regulations 40 CFR 230.3(t). This ~~is not referring to~~ ~~is not the same thing as~~ areas that may be subject to periodic flooding from storms.

- 1.A ~~Review~~ Ensure regulations that ~~it~~ and use and zoning categories for wetlands and coastal areas and revise as needed to promote wetland preservation.

~~Continue to enforce~~ Establishment of a ~~it~~ and-use ~~category~~ and zoning categories for conservation of natural areas ~~will~~ enhance existing programs aimed at wetland preservation. Any isolated wetlands within the city should be protected for their value for water storage and pollution control.



**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. *Prohibit further drainage of wetlands for development both inside and outside the levees.*

**Who:** CPC

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** CZO ~~amendment~~ *rewrite*

Remaining wetland areas should be reserved for stormwater storage and protected from further development.

2. ~~Maintain~~ *Establish* regulations and enforcement systems to protect wetlands, such as a city wetlands protection ordinance.

**Who:** Office of Coastal and Environmental Affairs; City Attorney; City Council

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** Stafftime

A city wetlands protection ordinance *in alignment with its stormwater management program should* ~~would~~ allow the City to define wetland areas for protection and regulation and create a system whereby development activity within a specified distance of wetland areas (such as 25 feet) must meet certain requirements. Lafourche Parish has a section in its zoning code (Chapter 19.H) that requires a “Letter of No Objection” for construction of pipelines and canals that could serve as a partial model. Where there is existing development in close proximity to wetlands or coastal areas, a regulatory system should be established to review petitions for alteration of the wetlands with mitigation requirements should the alteration be allowed.

## 1.B **Seek conservation solutions for wetlands through permanent protection or acquisition by conservation organizations.**

Natural areas in private hands can be protected through voluntary conservation servitudes (easements). The property owner agrees to permanently give up the development rights on the land, often in return for a payment through a government program, or simply to benefit from a reduction in taxes on the land, and retains title to the property. Conservation servitudes are part of the Louisiana Coastal Wetland Reserve Program, which works with farmers to restore lands to wetlands, making a payment for the agricultural development rights in return for establishment of a conservation servitude on the land. Although wetland property owners in New Orleans are not farmers, this program could provide a precedent.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. *Discuss options with Bayou Sauvage and environmental organizations.*

**Who:** Office of Coastal and Environmental Affairs; Trust for Public Land; U.S. Department of Interior

**When:** Medium term

**Resources:** Staff time; federal or non-profit funding

A future opportunity may lie in climate change policy because of wetland’s exceptional role as “carbon sinks.” With the establishment of a cap and trade system of carbon credits, New Orleans wetlands will become valuable as sources of carbon credits because they are excellent vehicles for carbon sequestration.

**GOAL 2**

## **Restoration and expansion of New Orleans’ urban forest to reach 50 percent tree canopy by 2030**

Tree planting is one of the easiest ways to enhance quality of life. Flooding and winds from Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans’ urban forest, but even before Hurricane Katrina, some neighborhoods had fewer trees, for example, Tremé, the French Quarter, Marigny, Bywater, Central City, Algiers Riverside and some parts of the 9th Ward. Although American Forests suggests a 40 percent goal for tree canopy, its 2002 report did not include Bayou Sauvage. With the wildlife refuge included, a 50 percent canopy goal for the city is reasonable. Within different parts of the city, different goals should be set, for example: 15 percent for the CBD; 25 percent for higher density areas; 50 percent for lower-density areas.



**2.A Promote tree planting on ~~both public and private~~ property.****RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. ~~2.A.6, and 2.A.7. Inventory and prepare a~~ **city-wide tree canopy and vegetation (including public right-of-way and neutral ground areas) layers, documenting value attributes etc., in a digital format to allow** GIS layer ~~and analyze it~~ **analysis** ~~with appropriate tree cover to include using software that tracks~~ **vegetative changes over time.**

**Who:** Parks ~~and~~ Parkways; City GIS Department, **DPW;** ~~unit, Louisiana Urban Forestry Council (LUFC);~~ **consultant**

**When:** ~~Medium term~~ **First five years**

**Resources:** Louisiana ~~Dept.~~ **Dept.** of Agriculture and Forestry; **U.S Department of Agriculture, Forest Service;** ~~Urban and Community Grants, Alliance for Community Trees Grants, Chevron Grants;~~ **grants; general fund;**  
**Staff time**

2. ~~4~~ Prepare a ~~street tree and vegetation~~ master plan to ~~plant street trees~~ **address public lands** throughout the city.

**Who:** Parks ~~and~~ Parkways; City GIS unit Department; CPC; ~~Louisiana Urban Forestry Council (LUFC);~~ **consultant**

**When:** ~~Medium term~~ **First five years**

**Resources:** Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry; U.S Department of Agriculture, Forest Service ~~Urban and Community Grants; Alliance for Community Trees Grants; Chevron Grants;~~ **grants; general fund**

Public streetscape projects ~~and~~ commercial or mixed-use development ~~or~~ **multi-family and** redevelopment projects should be required to provide street trees, where feasible. Street tree criteria should be updated for different kinds of streets. ~~appropriate species, planting and maintenance, and so on.~~ The city ~~should~~ **also needs to** have an updated and complete inventory of all street trees in GIS, which will help in maintenance and replacement of trees.



**The location of tree wells and landscape species, design documents for these projects should demonstrate adequate root growth area and rainwater supply available for each tree. When appropriate, technologies such as tree cells and pervious paving systems should be used to create conditions in which street trees thrive.**

3. ~~2.A.9.~~ Identifying priority areas for planting, species **selection palettes, best practices BMPs, etc.**

**Who:** Parks & Parkways; **NORDC; DPW; SWBNO**

**When:** Medium term

**Resources:** Staff time ~~possible consultant (approx. \$200K, depending on scope)~~

5. **Create a no net loss of tree canopy strategy for public and private property**

**Parks & Parkways; NORDC; CBDG**

**First five years**

**Staff; non-profit organizations**

6. **Establish criteria for "Heritage Trees" to inform future development. Identify as "heritage trees" (as) those trees of native species, significant size (e.g. top 20% by caliper), located along public corridors. Use additional criteria as appropriate. Consider additional protections for qualifying trees and appropriate incentives for their retention.**

**Parks & Parkways; NORDC; CBDG****First five years****Staff; non-profit organizations**

Trees play a vital role in parks and green spaces. Public parks and green spaces, open spaces and other landscape features retain and infiltrate stormwater, mitigate flood risk, slow/halt subsidence, and save energy, amongst many other benefits. The protection of valuable trees and creating funding mechanisms to plant new trees are important. It is also important to protect and encourage “heritage trees”. Heritage trees indicate valuable (usually native water loving trees) trees with a caliper of 24” or more.

~~4. 2A.8~~ Work with utility companies to develop & refine protocol for conflicts and to develop a public information document.

**Who:** Parks & Parkways; SWBNO; DPW; Utility Companies; Communications

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** Staff time

~~2.A.1 2.A.6. Inventory the city's public trees and overall tree canopy.~~

**WHEN:** Medium term

**Resources:** Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Urban and Community Grants; Alliance for Community Tree Grants; Chevron Grants

~~2A.1 2.A.7. Prepare a GIS layer with street trees and neutral grounds vegetation.~~

**WHO:** Parks and Parkways; City GIS unit; Louisiana Urban Forestry Council (LUFC)

**WHEN:** Medium term

**RESOURCES:** (See above)

## **2.CB. Promote tree preservation and planting on private property.**

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

~~1. 2.C.1, 2.C.2, 2.C.3~~ Work with non-profits and neighborhood organizations to encourage homeowners and other private property owners to preserve and plant trees on private property.

**Who:** Parks & Parkways; DPW; SWBNO; NORA; Communications; Non-profit partners

**When:** ongoing

**Resources:** Staff time; non-profit partners; volunteers; grants; donations

~~Standards for new development should include requirements for planting trees, shrubs and groundcover, where appropriate. Large trees should be preferably preserved, but if they must be removed, several new trees equal in total caliper to the tree removed should be planted to replace them. A compensatory mitigation program should be established to guarantee replanting of tree caliper equal or greater to that lost. This model could fund offsite plantings when appropriate. It could also be adapted to encompass heritage trees on properties not slated for development.~~ Methods to help provide and promote tree preservation and planting can include continuing the ReLeaf program already operated by Parkway Partners and creation of community based or city led tree nurseries in vacant lots, with seedlings distributed in neighborhoods. A small tree nursery was established in City Park after Hurricane Katrina with assistance from the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council and Chevron should be promoted through partnerships with local non-profit, community and volunteer organizations.

~~2. 2A.4.~~ Improve the city's tree and vegetation protection ordinance (Chapter 106, Article IV)

**WHO:** Parks & Parkways; **CPC;** City Attorney; City Council

**WHEN:** First five years Medium term

**RESOURCES:** Staff time

The city has an ordinance for “Protection of vegetation” (Chapter 106, Article IV). This ordinance regulates activities that can affect city-owned trees, particularly street trees. Many communities also have ordinances that protect trees on private and public property that are of special significance because of their species, size or

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historic character, ~~in both private and public property~~. These ordinances typically require an administrative review or a public hearing before trees of special significance can be removed.

**3.2.A.5. Maintain** ~~Require~~ tree planting in the public right-of-way as part of any new development, where appropriate.  
~~as part of commercial or mixed-use development, where appropriate.~~

**Who:** CPC, ~~Parks and Parkways~~

**When:** ~~ongoing~~ First five years

**Resources:** CZO ~~amendment~~

**2.B.1** ~~2.C.1. Include trees in landscape standards in the new CZO.~~

~~**Who:** CPC~~

~~**When:** First five years~~

~~**Resources:** CZO rewrite~~

**2.B.1** ~~2.C.2. Work with non-profits and neighborhood organizations to encourage private tree planting on vacant properties.~~

~~**Who:** Parks and Parkways; Parkway Partners~~

~~**When:** First five years~~

~~**Resources:** Staff time; non-profit partners; volunteers~~

**2.B.1** ~~2.C.3. Encourage homeowners and other property owners to plant trees on their property.~~

~~**Who:** Parks and Parkways; Parkway Partners~~

~~**When:** First five years~~

~~**Resources:** Staff time; non-profit partners; volunteers~~

**2.C -B. Restore and plant new trees in green spaces, parks and neutral grounds.**

Many neutral grounds and parks have very little tree cover. A tree plan should be developed to guide replanting in terms of species and location. Once in place, the tree plan can be used to attract private funding by individuals and others who want to plant trees in memory of family members or for other reasons.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

**1.** ~~Continue to work with non-profits who donate trees to the city~~ and develop a program with attractive markers to indicate the donations.

~~**Who:** Parks and Parkways;~~ ~~DPW;~~ ~~SWBNO;~~ ~~NORA~~

~~**When:** ongoing~~ First five years

~~**Resources:** Donations~~

**2.** ~~Create~~ Assist with the creation of tree nurseries on city-owned vacant land and private land for public plantings and if feasible, for donation to property owners.

~~**Who:** Parks and Parkways;~~ ~~Parkway Partners;~~ ~~NORA;~~ ~~non-profit partners~~

~~**When:** First five years~~ ongoing

~~**Resources:** Staff time; non-profit partners~~

**2.D. Develop and eEstablish storm water management planting practices in public parks, green spaces, and neutral grounds.**

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

**1.** Prepare a comprehensive manual to include BMPs for use by city departments and the public to meet the city's stormwater management and resilience goals;

~~**Who:** City Council; CAO's Office; CPC;~~ ~~Parks & Parkways;~~ ~~NORA;~~ ~~SWBNO;~~ ~~Office of Sustainability~~

~~**When:** First five years~~

~~**Resources:** Staff time;~~ ~~general fund~~

**2.** ~~2.D.1 Replace most lawn areas in neutral grounds and street swales with shrubs and ground cover~~ sides with bioswales, plantings and appropriate storm water elements, when necessary amending the soil to accommodate increased rainwater detention.

~~**Who:** Parks and Parkways;~~ ~~public education through Levee Board;~~ ~~Parkway Partners~~

~~**When:** Medium term~~

~~**Resources:** Staff education and training;~~ ~~grants for public awareness;~~ grow plants in nursery

## 2. PARK SYSTEM

### GOAL 3

#### A commitment to no net loss of public parkland

Cities that give up park land end up regretting it. A robust network of green space and parks is a critical asset for quality of life and urban success. It helps retain existing residents and attracts new ones. When cities looking for “free land” establish other public facilities on park land, they are chipping away at the community’s overall inventory of park land. Often, it is more costly or otherwise more difficult to acquire new park land. For this reason, it is important to make sure that, at a minimum, the city maintain a commitment to keeping the same overall amount of park land that it has at present. In addition, as needed, additional park resources (whether directly owned by the city or by others) should be made available in areas of the city that are currently under served.

In post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans, some people have argued that the City cannot support many parks or that it is finding it difficult to maintain the large number of parks, especially smaller parks. There are subdivisions where designated park land was never developed into usable parks, either because the land was unsuitable or better-located spaces are nearby. As long as there is an overall commitment to keeping the overall park acreage and to criteria for the location of parks to serve neighborhoods and the city as a whole, adjustments can be made. A no net loss policy must be the foundation to restore, rebuild, enhance and expand the park system for the whole city.

MAP 7.1: 2009 ACCESS TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



*Access to excellent parks, recreational facilities, and natural areas are key ingredients of quality of life. Like the “gray infrastructure” of roads and water lines, these areas is “green infrastructure” requires a planned, created, maintained and restored coordinated system.*

**3.A. Establish systems and funding to ensure that the city does not lose acreage dedicated to parks.****RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. *Require enhanced public review of disposition of public parkland; apply any funds from sales of parkland towards acquisition of new parkland.*

**Who:** Parks and Parkways; CPC; City Council; Real Estate & Records; NORDC

**When:** First five years ongoing

**Resources:** Stafftime

Because it is often difficult to acquire land to create new parks, the overall amount of city land devoted to parks should, at a minimum, remain the same. That means that no park land should be transferred to another use or sold without provision for the same amount or more land being designated as new park land. **Adapting park land for improved stormwater management through landscape design is not to be considered a new use, as this is an historic function of open space in the city.** State Act 378 provides that designated park land (what constitutes “designation” is not described) cannot be taken out of park uses without the written approval of 70 percent of the property owners within a radius of 300 feet of the park.

**The City Planning Commission, as required by the City Charter Sections 6-302 and 6-306, has establish rules and procedures. The CPC's existing role is used** to decide whether any public land or building **should is to** be sold or acquired. ~~To enhance this process, the~~ **The City Planning Commission, Commission must** working with **NORDC and Parks & Parkways** the park and recreation departments, ~~should establish when utilizing a set of the~~ **criteria found in its Administrative Rules, Policies, & Procedures (3. Policy for City Purchase of Land and for Disposition of City Immovable Public Property) along with** and a deliberative process before any public park land is designated to be taken out of park and recreation use. ~~This process should be included or referenced in the zoning code.~~ The process should include ~~elements such as:~~

> *A requirement for a public hearing.* The City Planning Commission should hold a public hearing on the proposed sale or conversion of park land, at a time and place convenient for public comment. Each agency should make a written recommendation to the Mayor and the City Council.

> *A requirement for replacement.* Any park land sold or taken for other uses, including other municipal uses, must be replaced by land with similar park, recreation or conservation value in terms of usefulness and location. If the land is not available, funds must be deposited in a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund or similar dedicated account (described below) that would be sufficient to buy replacement land at fair market value. The land taken for other uses must be rezoned and taken out of the Parks category.<sup>1</sup>



**It is equally important to note that when open space is developed for a beneficial or recreational use (e.g. park office, rec center, etc.), its conservation value may be lost or degraded. In some cases, the city should seek to replace the acreage in order to retain a net balance of public open space.**

2. *Create a Parks ~~and Recreation~~ Trust Fund or similar accounts within the Capital Project Fund to receive funds for acquisition, ~~and~~ improvement and maintenance of parkland.*

**Who:** Parks and Parkways; CAO's Office; CPC; City Council; Real Estate & Records;

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** Stafftime

<sup>1</sup> Recommended procedures based on the discussion by Robert H. Levin, “When Forever Proves Fleeting: The Condemnation and Conversion of Conservation Land,” *NYU Environmental Law Journal*, 9 (2001), 592-637.

The City should create a Parks ~~and Recreation~~ Trust Fund within the Capital Projects Fund to receive ~~funds from a percentage of funds set-aside from major park construction projects for maintenance~~, sale of any decommissioned parks, developer funds resulting from Community Benefits Agreements, or other donations for the park ~~and recreation~~ system. The percentage set-aside should be similar to the One Percent for Art program, where a set percentage of any new major park construction project would be retained for the expanded maintenance demand the new park creates within the park system. Creation of such a trust fund, restricting the use of funds to park ~~and recreation~~ purposes, would provide a stabilized, long term and focused repository for funds dedicated to the development, enhancement, and maintenance of parks and recreation.

3. *Evaluate any public property identified for sale to identify suitability as a park, ~~or~~ recreation site, or stormwater management.*

**Who:** ~~CPC~~; Parks ~~and~~ Parkways; ~~NORDC~~; City Attorney; City Council; ~~SWBNO~~; ~~DPW~~; ~~NORA~~

**When:** ~~Medium term~~ ongoing

**Resources:** Staff time

Before public land is put up for sale, it should be reviewed by the CPC, ~~NORD~~~~NORDC~~, and Parks ~~and~~ Parkways to see if it is suitable for an identified park or recreation need in that location or for stormwater retention to benefit neighborhood drainage or flood-risk reduction.

## GOAL 4

### A park within walking distance—approximately 1/3 mile—of every New Orleans resident

In urban situations, park acreage is less important than park access. Research has repeatedly shown that the most important variable in how much and how often people use a green space is distance—especially walking time—from home.<sup>2</sup> They will travel from time to time to use large, unique open spaces of regional importance, but for everyday use, parks need to be close by. From the point of view of the park user, it does not matter who manages public open space, as long as it is accessible. In New Orleans, that means that a resident could be within walking distance of a park managed by Parks ~~and~~ Parkways or ~~NORD~~~~NORDC~~, by the Levee Board, by the CPIA, by the Audubon Commission, by the French Market Corporation, by the School District or by others. The important thing is to have a public green space within walking distance.

#### 4.A. Balance passive and active uses of parks and public spaces.

##### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Provide open field, and tree shaded areas, ~~walking paths; for walking, running, biking, and/or similar uses~~, seating, ~~water fountains and similar low impact amenities~~, and programming (activities such as concerts, festivals, etc.) in parks, open/green spaces and neutral grounds ~~that are not managed by NORDC in order to ensure that residents can and will use them.~~

**Who:** Parks ~~and~~ Parkways; ~~Department of Public Works~~ ~~NORDC~~; ~~DPW~~; Capital Projects Administration; non-profit partners; Regional Park Administrators

**When:** ~~First five years~~ ongoing

<sup>2</sup> Ann Forsyth, "People and Urban Green Areas: Perception and Use," University of Minnesota *Design Center for American Urban Landscape Design Brief*, 4 (June 2003) pp. 2, 5.



**Resources:** Variable, according to project, activity or event



All park systems need to provide a balance of passive and active green spaces. Finding the proper balance can be difficult as multiple user groups vie for the same spaces. Organized sports leagues and similar groups tend to be more effective in expressing their park and recreation needs on a regular basis than people who are looking for a passive park experience or members of the general public overall. For that reason, it is always important to make room for passive park experiences in park designs. Careful design of parks coupled with efforts to share playing fields and other resources for active sports and new technologies, such as artificial turf that allows for more intensive use of sports fields, can help balance demands for active and passive activity areas. Even small parks can be designed to include quiet, landscaped sections, as well as areas for children's play equipment or a half-basketball court.

2. ~~Provide~~ Make improvements for safe walking routes to parks utilizing artistic intervention.

**Who:** ~~NORD or successor organization~~ NORDC; Parks ~~and~~ & Parkways; DPW

**When:** Medium term

**Resources:** ~~Seek grant from~~ Public health funders, such as Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grants, Safe Routes to Schools funding program; grants (Federal, state, and private)

Safe and comfortable walking routes to parks are needed to make "walk-to" parks successful. Planning and creating a set of neighborhood routes to parks, as part of a combined public health and street improvement initiative can focus resources to enhance residents' access to parks. Neighborhood residents and park user groups can identify appropriate routes to be upgraded with trees, sidewalks, lighting, and intersection safety and beautification improvements at pedestrian crossings. Good lighting that enhances safety while remaining appropriate to a neighborhood context is essential. This program could be coupled with the development of neighborhood walking clubs. Framed as a public health program, the park routes initiative and neighborhood walking clubs could attract funding for community process, design, improvements, maps and signage. This is what happened in a low-income neighborhood of Providence, RI, where a nonprofit alliance received foundation funding to develop signed pedestrian routes, maps, and walking clubs to encourage walking for health.<sup>3</sup> There are now eight "Path to Health" walkable corridors in Rhode Island.

3. Establish systems to use vacant public lots and other public properties, such as schools, as full time or part time neighborhood parks.

**Who:** NORDC, Parks and Parkways

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** Staff time

4.B. Prioritize creation of new parks or playgrounds where there is no park within walking distance and provide access to resources of citywide importance, such as the waterfront.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

31. Prioritize creation of new parks or playgrounds for under-served areas where there is no park within walking distance

<sup>3</sup> See [www.spm.org/about/services/healthpromotion.shtml](http://www.spm.org/about/services/healthpromotion.shtml)

~~and for access to resources of citywide importance, such as the waterfront.~~

**Who:** CPC; ~~NORDC or successor organization~~; Parks & Parkways; **Real Estate and Records; Capital Projects Administration**

**When:** **First five years** ~~Medium term~~

**Resources:** CDBG; general fund; **Staff time**

Underserved areas exist in many areas, including parts of Planning Districts 3, 4, 7, 8, and New Orleans East and Algiers—residential areas that are not within walking distance of a park or where barriers (such as highways) preclude easy access. ~~The existence of so many vacant lots during the recovery period is~~ **Vacant lots are** an opportunity to identify and preserve future neighborhood parks. Non-profit organizations and neighborhood groups could be invited to seek grant funding for play equipment and landscaping and to assist in upkeep until the city allocates regular funding. The future parks could also be offered as community gardens or community orchards, with an annual process to register for plots and with notice that the area might be transformed into a public park in the future.

## **2. Restore vacant or closed neighborhood parks in underserved areas with programming to meet the community's current needs.**

**Who:** Parks & Parkways; NORDC; CDBG

**When:** **First five years**

**Resources:** **Staff; non-profit organizations**

## GOAL 5

### **More public access to waterfronts**

For a city surrounded by water, New Orleans has a limited amount of public open space at its waterfronts **for general enjoyment by the population**. More access to the waterfront has been a goal for almost 20 years.

## **5.A Create parks and public spaces along the Mississippi River ~~and~~ Lake Pontchartrain, **and other waterways and wetlands** and ensure access to the public.**

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. Enhance parks and public access along the Mississippi River **allowing open/green space to dominate**.  
**Who:** New Orleans Building Corp.; **Port of New Orleans; USACE; French Market Corp**  
**When:** **First five years**  
**Resources:** ~~D-CDBG~~; **Staff time**

The City's Riverfront Vision 2005 Plan called for more parks and public spaces along the Mississippi River: a park in Lower Garden District and one in Bywater/Marigny; a promenade from Jackson Avenue to the Industrial Canal to be matched by a similar linear park along the West Bank; and open space improvements near the levee at Algiers Point. The Reinventing the Crescent Plan developed some of these ideas in more detail and ~~the a new "Downriver Park"~~ **downriver "Crescent Park"** is **currently open under design**.

2. Enhance park land along Lake Pontchartrain, including Lincoln Beach.  
**Who:** Levee Board; OFICD; **Municipal Yacht Harbor**  
**When:** Medium term ~~Resources:~~ **Staff time**  
**Resources:** **Staff time; D-CDBG**

~~Renovation~~ **Lincoln Beach was once a recreational beach front; renovation** and reopening of Lincoln Beach has long been a city objective. The 2009 budget ~~allocates~~ **allocated** \$1M in disaster CDBG funds for this project. ~~West of the Industrial Canal, the park along the lake, but the project has not yet initiated.~~ Lakeshore/Lakefront Park, **along Lake Pontchartrain west of the Industrial Canal**, is owned and managed by the Orleans Levee Board. ~~Live Lincoln Beach, this area was once a recreational beach front. To reach its potential as a citywide amenity,~~ Lakeshore Park **needs to be** ~~has been recently~~ redesigned to provide more space between the lake and the roadway, as well as pathways and active and passive recreational areas across the road.

3. Enhance the amenity value of canals and drainage facilities when possible.  
**Who:** Levee Board; OFICD; **SWNBO; DPW; Parks & Parkways**

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** Levee resources

Today, most of the canals and drainage facilities in New Orleans are unattractive, if they are visible at all, and residents experience water more as a threat than as an amenity. As noted earlier, the Levee Board is preparing a study on day lighting (opening underground or covered canals to the surface) and adding to the number of canals. In addition to making sure that any canals function correctly for water management, it is important that they be designed as an attractive addition to the city's open space. In addition to making sure that any canals function correctly for water management, it is important that they be designed as an attractive addition to the city's open space. Likewise, a new generation of drainage assets should contribute to urban design goals. The Sewerage and Water Board must also be involved in any analysis of this potential as the canals can be dangerous places when the pumps are turned on. (See Volumes 2 and 3, Chapter 14.)

While some progress has been made, great potential remains. In addition to the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain, New Orleans' bayous, canals and wetlands represent important water assets. Landscape features for water management, such as along Lafitte Greenway and in NORA Stormwater Lots, are similarly valuable. Linking people to these water assets with trails, pocket parks, overlooks, etc. and linking these assets together with greenways, bike lanes, pedestrian bridges, etc. enhances quality of life. In many cases, such linkages can be paired with parks, open/green spaces and recreation areas to recharge groundwater and improve water quality.

#### 4. Enhance the existing public edge along the Mississippi River.

Who: NORDC; CPC

When: Next five years

Resources: Staff time

Given the investment from the Moon Walk to the Spanish Plaza, the city has a great opportunity to improve the connection of the amenities to each other and to the city neighborhoods and districts on the landside of the levee walls.-

#### 5. Link existing water assets.

Who: CPC, S&WB, Office of Coastal and Environmental Affairs, NORA; DPW; Levee boards; DPW etc.

When: Medium term

Resources: General fund, private foundations, federal grants

Connecting water assets to open space and each other through trails, bike lanes, pedestrian bridges, etc. not only improves accessibility but also fosters stewardship and creates new opportunities for economic investment in adjacent parcels. Furthermore these linkages can provide valuable forums for interpretive signage and educational events that enhance citizens understanding of water systems and their own role in water management. Crescent Park, Lafitte Greenway and Lakeshore Drive provide useful models that should be adapted to suit the water assets in East New Orleans and Algiers. Interconnectivity among these waterside corridors should be a long-range goal.

## GOAL 6

### More green connections throughout the city

New Orleans has made considerable progress in the last five years building the ~~Without~~ connections, that allow our parks and open spaces to do not really function as a holistic system. The connective tissue of a park system is made up of the streets, paths, trails and waterways that let people reach their parks and other open spaces. People need comfortable connections, protected from traffic, with safe intersection crossings, shady during the heat of the day, and well-lit in the evening and at night. New Orleans' has restored and renovated many of its streets, paths, trails, waterways and neutral grounds as the are the original connecting tissue for its of the green infrastructure system but more linkages can be created. While the city has made considerable progress in this regard, there are still opportunities to enhance its connective network by extending it to parks that remain disconnected.

#### 6.A Create linear parks and green ways for multi-use pathways using the city's neutral grounds and other

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linear connections, such as levees, canal edges and rail lines.

Several ~~multiuse~~ **multi-use** pathways ~~and linear parks~~ have already been created—, including the ~~St. Anthony Avenue and Wisner Boulevard paths—~~ **Lakefront Park along Lake Pontchartrain as well as Woldenberg Park, the Moon Walk, Crescent Park,** and the ~~Lafitte Greenway will be the first of a network of green ways in~~ **Holy Cross levee path along** the city. ~~Several multiuse~~ **Mississippi River. The network of greenways with multi-use paths needs better connections between existing** pathways ~~have already been created—the~~ **Lafitte Greenway, Wisner Boulevard along Bayou St. John, St. Anthony Avenue—and Wisner, West End/Pontchartrain Boulevard paths, Galvez Street, Napoleon Avenue, Lake Forest Drive, and Jefferson Davis Parkway – as well as new linear parks** and ~~the planned Lafitte Greenway will~~ **pathways to** form part of a ~~and expand the~~ network of greenways and neutral grounds ~~that will connect~~ **connecting** green spaces throughout the city.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Connect people to parks and neighborhood destinations by ~~“Green~~ **implementing the City’s “Complete Streets” policy** and coordinate the network with transit stops and bike boulevards **(see Chapter 13).**

**Who:** ~~CPC~~ **planning with:** Parks ~~and~~ **&** Parkways; DPW; RTA

**When:** Medium term

**Resources:** Variable, according to project

Tree-lined, ~~“Green~~ **Complete** Streets” should be prioritized for pedestrian and bicycle routes. In addition to the streets already graced by neutral grounds, other important corridors can be designated for redesign as green boulevards, for example, **Tulane Avenue** and the Earhart **Boulevard** corridor.

2. Work with the ~~regional~~ **Regional** Planning Commission and other groups to connect with regional pathways such as the multi-state Mississippi Trail.

**Who:** DPW; RPC; **Capital Projects Administration**

**When:** Medium term

**Resources:** Stafftime

Support extension of city green ways and trails to connect with regional pathways, such as the multi-state Mississippi Trail. As green ways and trails are designed and constructed, connections with regional greenway projects should be supported.

3. Explore the creation of “blueways,” designated water routes, to provide water-based recreation connected to parks, open spaces and recreation areas.

**Who:** ~~Levee Board; Sewerage and Water Board; private groups~~ **See Volume 2, Chapter 12 and Volume 3, Chapter 12 for more detailed discussion.**

**When:** Long term

**Resources:** Variable

There are two marinas on Lake Pontchartrain, the South Shore Harbor Marina and Orleans Marina, both owned by the Orleans Levee District. Tulane University operates a rowing program in the Orleans Canal in City Park. Canoes and kayaks can be seen on Bayou St. John but bridges might have to be raised to make the entire bayou navigable. Expansion of water- based recreation can occur through more recreational boating programs in canals; more boat launches on Lake Pontchartrain; enhanced marketing of boating excursions in Bayou Sauvage and elsewhere; and support for the boating community and excursion industry to map blueway routes. Because Lake Pontchartrain is at a higher elevation than Bayou St. John and interior canals, and pumping systems affect the waterways, a blueways program needs a feasibility study.

4. Explore the feasibility of “daylighting” canals that have been covered over and creating additional canals.

**Who:** S&WB; Corps; Levee District; RPC

**When:** Long term

**Resources:** Variable

“Daylighting” of below-ground urban streams and canals means removing the cover materials and restoring the



water to the surface. Seoul, Korea, Seattle (WA) and Yonkers (NY) are among the communities that have daylighting projects of different types. In New Orleans, canals can serve as neighborhood amenities as well as water management elements. If properly designed, and where groundwater levels are not a problem, more canals can provide additional water storage area during storm events as well as attractive neighborhood amenities with linear parks on each side. The Orleans Levee Board expects to ~~have a completed a~~ study of the options ~~by 2011~~. (See Chapter 12 - Resilience for more discussion of canals and water storage strategies.)

5. Use neutral grounds, levees, canal edges and rail lines as potential greenway connectors.

**Who:** Parks ~~and &~~ Parkways; ~~NORD~~; ~~or successor~~ NORDC; SWBNO; Levee Board; DPW; NORA

**When:** Medium term

**Resources:** Variable according to project

Explore the possibility of using sufficiently wide neutral grounds as greenways. These could connect to linear, neighborhood, and regional parks to enhance the connection of green spaces throughout the city and facilitate access via walking and cycling. The use of the Basin Street neutral ground to connect the Lafitte Greenway to Canal Street and Duncan Plaza could serve as an ideal project for future study, in addition to other appropriate neutral grounds across the city.

6. Encourage ~~Incentivize~~ private owners to develop short to medium term public creative common space throughout neighborhoods supporting creative uses of lots that are underutilized.

**Who:** CPC; CAO; NORA; Arts Council of New Orleans; Parks & Parkways

**When:** Medium term

**Resources:** Staff time

## GOAL 7

**Maintenance of existing parks, and open/green spaces and recreational sites to a high level**

- 7.A Establish expanded maintenance criteria ~~for parks and open space~~.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. ~~Create a committee with staff and citizens to develop goals and criteria and a photo system as in San Francisco.~~

**Who:** Parks ~~and &~~ Parkways; ~~NORD~~; ~~or successor~~ NORDC; SWBNO; Levee Board; DPW; NORA

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** Staff time

Maintenance of a complex system of parks and open spaces has been difficult in the years of reduced funding since Hurricane Katrina and many residents think that green spaces do not receive sufficient maintenance. At present, the ~~Department of Parks and Parkways has~~ departments providing maintenance have some basic maintenance criteria. A number of cities have developed more detailed criteria in collaboration with citizen representatives, so that there is greater understanding of expectations and standards by the public, by management and by staff. ~~San Francisco worked with a citizen committee to produce a manual with photographs showing acceptable and unacceptable situations for each criterion.~~ Shared creation of criteria and understanding of costs helps build the constituency for adequate funding.

2. Work with partnership groups to enhance and assist with maintenance.

**Who:** Parks ~~and &~~ Parkways; ~~NORD~~; ~~or successor~~ NORDC; SWBNO; Levee Board; DPW; NORA

**When:** Medium term

**Resources:** Staff time

The large parks in New Orleans have “Friends” groups—membership organizations that raise money and otherwise help City Park, Brechtel Park, and Audubon Park. Many cities have Friends groups for neighborhood parks. Just as recreation programs at specific parks have Booster Clubs, Friends groups drawn from the surrounding neighborhoods could assist the city in taking care of smaller parks and green spaces.

3. Encourage partnership groups to assist in maintenance.

**Who:** Parks and Parkways; NORD; ~~or successor~~

**When:** ~~Medium term~~, ongoing

*Resources: Stafftime*

4. Develop partnerships to support the funding of a maintenance endowment for the City's parks, open/green spaces, and recreation sites based upon a City-approved 20-year maintenance plan

*Who: Parks & Parkways; NORDC; Mayor's Office; Law Department*

*When: First five years*

*Resources: Stafftime*

**7.B Establish clear and permanent policies and procedures for accepting, placing and maintaining public art in parks, green spaces and recreation sites.**

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. Adopt ~~an~~ **a Public Artwork Donation** Policy that sets *specific* policies and procedures for all aspects of accepting, installing and maintaining public art.

*Who: City Planning-CPC, Arts Council, Parks ~~and~~ Parkways, Property Management, Capital Projects, HDLC Historic Districts & Landmarks Commission; DPW*

*When: Ongoing*

*Resources: Stafftime*

**7.C Establish and maintain storm water infrastructure in public spaces.**

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. Fund and staff storm water infrastructure maintenance team(s) with specialized training to manage and develop green space elements on public lands.

*Who: Parks & Parkways; DPW; NORA; SWBNO; Office of Resilience and Sustainability*

*When: Ongoing*

*Resources: General fund, grants, staff time*

**7.D. Research the history and design of parks, open/green spaces, and recreation sites to develop, restore, redesign, reconstruct, and maintain the areas.**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Inventory and analyze any existing original landscape designs and any recently implemented or proposed restorations of neighborhood parks, open/green spaces and recreation sites.

*Who: Parks & Parkways; NORDC; CBDG*

*When: First five years*

*Resources: Staff; non-profit organizations; CBDG*

2. Gather research of each individual park, open/green space, and recreation site including history, architectural and horticultural styles, and include the social, economic and environmental development role of each.

*Who: Parks & Parkways; NORDC; CBDG*

*When: First five years*

*Resources: Staff; non-profit organizations; CBDG*

3. Hold workshops on park, open/green space, and recreation site usage, restoration, redesign, reconstruction, and maintenance with nearby residents and property owners

*Who: Parks & Parkways; NORDC; CBDG*

*When: First five years*

*Resources: Staff; non-profit organizations; CBDG*

4. Prepare a preliminary design that takes into account Smart Growth principles and sustainability issues, and includes a discussion of storm water management priorities

**Who: Parks & Parkways; NORDC**

**When: First five years**

**Resources: Staff; non-profit organizations; CBDG**

**5. Implement plans to restore, redesign, and reconstruct parks, open/green spaces and recreation sites using an annual 'phased' approach, taking into consideration: a. Extant plant materials, their preservation and nurturance;**

**b. The addition of lower maintenance plant materials;**

**c. Recreational and open space use priorities (i.e., passive and active recreational uses);**

**d. Landuse changes impacting the nature of each adjacent neighborhood;**

**e. The traditional character and history of each site**

**Who: Parks & Parkways; NORDC; CBDG**

**When: First five years**

**Resources: Staff; non-profit organizations**

### 3. RECREATION

#### GOAL 8

**Multi-use indoor/outdoor recreation centers within 5 miles of every resident**

**8.A Create ~~10~~ 56 indoor pools at existing centers.**

Many of New Orleans' pre-Hurricane Katrina public swimming pools were extremely antiquated. Creation of a smaller number of state of the art year-round swimming pools can begin to build aquatics programs for children and adults.

##### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Identify sites and invest in pools.

**Who:** ~~NORD; or successor~~ NORDC.

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** D-CDBG; FEMA; millage for operating costs

**8.B Coordinate recreation resources with schools and other community and human services.**

Recreation centers should be part of neighborhood hubs that offer a variety of fitness, education and human services to neighborhood residents, as discussed in other chapters of this Master Plan.

##### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Meet regularly with non-~~NORD~~ NORDC providers to streamline services.

**Who:** ~~Parks and Parkways; NORD; or successor~~ School Districts; human services providers; NORDC

**When:** ~~Medium term~~ First five years

**Resources:** Staff time

2. Explore collaborations with school districts and other organizations to establish joint use of facilities agreements.

Allow ~~ing playing~~ playing fields, playgrounds and recreation centers **to be** used by ~~community~~ community residents when schools are closed; if necessary, adopt regulatory and legislative policies to address liability issues that might block implementation.

**Who:** School Districts, NORDC

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** Staff time, cooperative agreements

#### GOAL 9

## Year-round recreation opportunities for children, seniors and adults

### 9.A Provide recreational opportunities appropriate to the demographics of the surrounding neighborhoods.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. Focus child and youth-oriented activities in neighborhoods with higher numbers of family households.

**Who:** ~~NORD; or successor~~ NORDC;

**When:** Medium term

**Resources:** Stafftime

New Orleans neighborhoods vary significantly in terms of the percentage of family households. While youth-oriented services should be available to some degree in all neighborhoods, they should be focused where the clientele lives, while more adult-oriented recreation programs should be focused in neighborhoods with fewer children.

2. Continue to focus on 40 supervised playgrounds to be sports program hubs.

**Who:** ~~NORD; or successor~~ NORDC

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** D-CDBG

Rather than spread resources thinly throughout a very large number of playgrounds, ~~NORD~~NORDC is focusing on 40 well-distributed playgrounds to be the hubs of athletic activities.

3. Work with private programs and the Council on Aging.

**Who:** ~~NORD; or successor~~ NORDC; Council on Aging

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** Fees, where appropriate

Aging baby boomers are likely to increase demand for senior recreation. Coordination with existing programs and the Council on Aging can help to fill that need in a cost-effective way.

4. Promote fitness through facilities and programs.

**Who:** ~~NORD; or successor~~ NORDC;

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** Fees, where appropriate

Well-run fitness facilities and classes for adults can be a source of fees that enhance departmental revenues while at the same time meeting the needs of a part of the population that today does not participate widely in ~~NORD~~NORDC programs.

5. Provide dog parks where there is high demand.

**Who:** Parks and Parkways; NORDC; Capital Projects Administration

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** In existing public and/or park land

Neighborhoods with a high percentage of adults and one- and two-person households typically have demand for dog parks. Currently, the city's only 2 dog parks ~~s are~~ is located in City Park and Crescent Park.

6. Provide recreational facilities/attractions such as fountains/spray parks and play equipment for children and teens.

**Who:** ;NORDC; Capital Projects Administration

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** Staff time; existing/new park land; fees where appropriate

**7. Promote and provide a space for community-led cultural programming in all city-run recreation and community centers.****Who: NORDC; cultural organizations****When: First five years****Resources: Staff time; existing/new NORDC facilities; fees where appropriate**

**Neighborhood based cultural traditions are an integral part of the City's identity and a driving factor in youth development. Community led cultural programming held by either cultural organizations or respected culture bearers will be given a space in all city run recreation and community centers, with priority given to organizations and individuals from the area where the center is located.**

**GOAL 10****Recreation offerings that meet changing citizen needs****10.A Regularly monitor the recreation needs of all segments of the population.****RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. Survey residents through the internet and more rigorous methods in order to keep up with changing recreation needs.

**Who: ~~NORD; Parks and Parkways~~NORDC****When: First five years****Resources: Survey-approximately \$30 K**

Recreation needs are not static. For example, surveys show that throughout the country there has been a tremendous increase in the desire for walking paths as compared with previous decades. As populations change, their ~~park and~~ recreation needs and desires change, so it is important to survey them regularly. In addition to surveying people who are already users of ~~park and~~ recreation resources, it is also important to reach those who do not go to ~~the parks~~ or participate in recreation programs and find out what keeps them away or what they would like to do. That is why a scientific survey designed to reach all areas of the city is important at least once every ten years.

2. Provide for individual activities as well as team sports and classes.

**Who: ~~NORD or successor~~NORDC****When: Medium term****Resources: Fees, where appropriate**

Team athletics are important and very organized, and classes can be very popular. However, many people are looking for ~~unscheduled, individual~~individualized activities, such as arts and crafts, as well as solo physical activity in passive park areas.

**4. FINANCING AND MANAGEMENT****GOAL 11**

**More effective coordination and cost-effective management of parks, open/green spaces, and recreation resources and programs and the Public Art in those spaces.**

**11.A Coordinate park and recreation resources and activities throughout the city.****RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Establish an inter-agency parks and recreation coordinating group including all relevant city, nonprofit, private, and parish agencies.

**Who: Convened by CPC; all park management groups; private recreation providers****When: First five years****Resources: Stafftime**

Because the New Orleans park, open space and recreation system is managed by multiple entities, it is essential that a coordinating group be established to share information and plans to serve the city's residents and visitors. No matter how conscious the different agencies may be of their independent existence and varying funding levels, from the point of view of a person who wants to take advantage of the outdoors, play sports, or enjoy the lakefront or riverfront, it is all part of the public realm and green ~~infrastructure spaces~~ of the city. Efforts to coordinate programming and activities will stretch the funding for park and recreation programs across the board, providing cost-effective services and resources to the community. As a group, the agencies can also work on building a common constituency for parks and recreation and raising public awareness about their importance for quality of life and economic prosperity. At a minimum the coordinating group should include ~~NORD and Parks and~~ Parkways ~~(or any successor organization)~~, ~~NORDC~~, City Park Improvement Association, Audubon Institute, the Orleans Levee Board, and the School District, ~~but~~, ideally, private recreation providers should ~~ideally~~ also participate. The City Planning Commission could convene the group two to four times a year to exchange information. One of those times should be when departments are preparing their capital budget requests. ~~This, at which this~~ meeting ~~should~~could also function as an annual public meeting to review progress and hear from the public on park and recreation issues.

## GOAL 12

### Community participation in decision making about parks and recreation

#### 12.A Survey park and recreation resource users on a regular basis.

Information should be collected regularly on park and recreation program users, their current level of satisfaction, and needs for new park recreation resources or programs. Surveys at the end of recreation programs; focus groups; and informal, web-based surveys can provide direction in between more scientific surveys every ten years.

##### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. *Require instructors to use evaluation forms in classes.*  
**Who:** ~~NORD or successor~~ NORDC  
**When:** First five years **Resources:** Stafftime
2. *Use the web page for surveys; free web-based survey utilities are available.*  
**Who:** ~~NORD~~ NORDC; City ITI  
**When:** First five years  
**Resources:** Stafftime
3. *Conduct a scientific survey every 10 years.*  
**Who:** ~~NORD or successor~~ NORDC  
**When:** Long term **Resources:** \$30 K
4. *Creatively survey users of parks and recreation through creative place-making practices, on a regular basis.*  
**Who:** Arts Council of New Orleans; other similar organizations; Parks & Parkways; NORDC  
**When:** Five years.  
**Resources:** Stafftime

#### 12.B ~~Continue~~ Establish to use a system for to incorporate community input systems in all parks, green spaces and recreation for design, maintenance and ~~convene public meetings to provide input on major improvements, new park designs, and/or new recreation facilities and programs.~~

Whenever design starts on improvements to parks, neutral grounds, or new parks, park users and community members should be invited to a series of meetings: the first to gather information on issues and concerns; the second to present a conceptual design for discussion; and the third to present the detailed design for discussion.



**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Integrate a system with the Neighborhood Participation Plan system ~~to be developed~~.  
**Who:** NORDC; Parks & Parkways working with neighborhood/community participation; NEOGPC, working through NPP organization to be developed  
**When:** First five years  
**Resources:** Stafftime

## 12.C Prepare and update a city-wide full parks, green/open space and recreation master plan and regional park master plans regularly.

City-wide A full parks green/open space and recreation and regional parks Mmaster Pplans separate from the city master plan should be created and updated every 10 years. Since the last one was completed in 2002, the next one should be readied in 2012. The plan should include overall priorities for the parks and recreation system and should provide a detailed, facilities-based assessment and plan for achieving the individual goals and objectives described in this Master Plan document. It should include a full assessment of parks and recreation facilities available, and provide priorities and locations where additional facilities are needed to provide equitable access to park facilities across the City of New Orleans.

The appropriate managing entity should conduct a systematic assessment of park users before each full Parks and Recreation Master Plan update and each amendment process, in order to inform the update and amendment processes. This assessment should incorporate on-site observation of park and recreation spaces at multiple times of the week and multiple times of day.

In addition, a full assessment should be conducted by the managing entity of park facilities as part of each Parks and Recreation Master Plan update and recommend needed facility changes for each park location.

The various master plans should be sponsored jointly by NORDC Parks and Parkways or the appropriate Regional Administrator with neighborhood/community input (NPP) or a similar system dictated by administrator's guiding appropriate regulations. Also a comprehensive design and investment plan (should be developed for) the Departments of Public Works and Parks & Parkways. This plan should detail stormwater best management practices for neutral grounds, intersections, rights of way, etc. as well as long-term maintenance protocols for the prescribed green infrastructure installations. The plan should include specific project commitments and establish new default designs for road or utility projects that disrupt neutral grounds.

In order to account for changes of a Master Plan it is important the regional Master Plans establish a process similar to the existing Institutional Master Plan requirement in the Comprehensive Ordinance.

As the Ceity/Regional Administrators meets some of its goals and as conditions change, their plans will need to be modified to continue to guide decision making about the park and recreation system. neighborhood community input should be part of their updating or amending process. The master plan should be sponsored jointly by the Parks and Recreation agency or agencies and by NORDC; Parks and Parkways and the City Planning Commission.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. Update the plan every 10 years, conduct an amendment process every five years which includes including a full public participation element.  
**Who:** CPC, working with NORDC; and Parks and Parkways; Regional Park Administrators; public/community input; Mayors of Innovation

**When:** ~~ongoing~~ Long term

**Resources:** Staff time; General Fund; grants; approx. \$500 - 600 K

**2. Intergrade community and cultural assets into public spaces through public art and design intervention with public/community input.**

**Who:** Arts Council of New Orleans; Parks & Parkways; DPW

**When:** Medium term

**Resources:** Staff time

**3. Amend the CZO to incorporate Master Plan regulations for regional parks similar to the existing Institutional Master Plan regulations in the CZO.**

**Who:** CPC; City Council

**When:** First five years

**Resources:** Staff time

## GOAL 13

### Consistent and adequate level of maintenance, operations and programming on a per capita basis

#### 13.A Provide a consistent and adequate per capita operating budget and work towards establishing a dedicated funding source for municipal park and recreation resources and programs.

The best-funded parks and recreation departments have dedicated funding sources, generally a portion of property taxes or sales taxes. In Minneapolis, \$1.20 per \$1,000 of tax revenue in 2005 went to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, a semi-autonomous, elected board created in 1883 to maintain and develop the city's extensive park system. In 2005, the Park Board received 9 percent of tax revenue. In Seattle, a 2000 parks levy was approved at \$0.35 per \$1,000 additional property tax to be used mainly for acquisition and development of 18 new neighborhood parks in ~~under-served~~ underserved neighborhoods. The Chicago Parks District receives dedicated property tax funds, which account for over 50 percent of the government revenues that go to its parks. In Florida, Pinellas County uses a portion of its sales tax to fund parks and estimates that 40 percent of sales taxes are paid by seasonal residents and tourists. Boulder, Colorado, has both a sales tax-supported Open Space Fund and a property tax-supported Parks and Recreation Fund.

The proposal for a new Playgrounds and Recreation Commission calls for a dedicated 7.5 millage by 2020, creating a budget of \$20 million annually, almost five times ~~NORD's~~ NORDC's 2009- budget. The Department of Parks ~~and~~ & Parkways ~~also~~ requires more consistent and increased funding, so it can provide enhanced maintenance, landscape design, and planting services to improve the City's green spaces.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. *Provide a consistent and adequate per capita operating budget.*  
**Who:** Voters  
**When:** First five years  
**Resources:** Millage vote
2. *Continue to work with partnership groups and grant makers to supplement funding.*  
**Who:** ~~NORD~~ City Council; CAO's Office; NORDC; Parks ~~and~~ & Parkways; non-profits  
**When:** First five years  
**Resources:** Grants; volunteer activities; ~~s~~ Staff time

~~The creation of neighborhood activity hubs were schools, clinics, libraries and other facilities to serve surrounding residents is a centerpiece of this Master Plan. Joint use agreements help codify expectations and criterion for use maintenance contributions and other services.~~

In addition to continue working partnerships with non-profit organization, expand staffing to include a professional grant writer to greatly enhance departmental abilities to pursue multiple grant opportunities.

3. *Pursue joint use agreements with public and private entities who own land that could add to park and recreation - opportunities.*



**Who:** ~~NORD~~ NORDC; Parks & Parkways; private groups

**When:** Medium term

**Resources:** Variable

Booster Friends groups and private companies already support some activities, especially youth sports programs. More partner groups should be sought for green space projects and passive parks. Joint use agreements help codify expectations and criterion for use maintenance contributions and other services.

4. Establish fees appropriate to the program and level of community or individual benefit and reserve fees for park and recreation ~~at~~ uses.

**Who:** ~~NORD~~ NORDC; Parks & Parkways

**When:** Medium term

**Resources:** Variable according to activity

Programs with overwhelming social benefit such as youth programs, should remain free or at very low cost. However, by developing fee-based programs for adults, or specialty programs, the city can gain new revenues to support the community-wide programs.

## GOAL 14

### Expanded partnerships to support park and recreation resources and programs

- 14.A. Continue to support and ~~work~~ expand partnerships with ~~Parkway Partners and support expansion of non-profit partners.~~ park, green space, and neutral ground ~~"Friends"~~ groups, as well as existing NORD ~~NORDC booster and Friends groups.~~ ~~and hire a volunteer coordinator to develop and manage a network of "Friends" groups for individual parks.~~

~~The cost of a coordinator will be repaid by activities and funding benefitting the parks.~~

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Expand park and neutral ground Friends' and Booster groups, green space friends groups and ~~and hire a volunteer coordinator~~ non-profit partnerships.

**Who:** Parks ~~and~~ & Parkways; ~~NORD~~ NORDC

**When:** Medium term

**Resources:** Staff ~~position~~ time; non-profit organizations; community groups

2. Establish a not-for-profit org., operating under an authorizing MOU with the City of New Orleans, to develop a series of partnerships among City, Parish, State, Federal, Private Foundation, Corporate Foundation and Corporate Resources to restore, redesign, reconstruct and maintain parks, open/green spaces and recreation resources and programs

Parks and Parkways; NORDC; Mayor's Office, City's Law Department

First five years

Staff time

## GOAL 15

### Effective marketing of the municipal park and recreation system to citizens and visitors

- 15.A. Utilize the arts when ~~providing~~ user-friendly communications, including an interactive web site, an annual report, consistent signage, and similar efforts.

Audubon Institute and increasingly, City Park, do a good job of marketing themselves to park users. ~~NORD~~ NORDC and Parks ~~and~~ & Parkways, with much more constrained funding, have not. However, investment in marketing to the public is a way to increase the constituency for parks and for recreation programs. ~~Start up~~ Startup funding for a public communication program could be sought from corporate partners or foundations.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

1. *Improve the web pages, provide an annual report, and consistent signage.*

**Who:** Parks ~~and~~ & Parkways; ~~NORD~~ NORDC

**When:** Medium term

**Resources:** Stafftime; consultants; ~~capital budgeting~~; general fund

**New Orleans is an organically creative place that uses public space in a variety of ways to enhance the living conditions of its residents. The city should commit to actively include artists and designers in the more formal process of participation and public space development.**

2. *Utilize the creative assets of the city to provide art and design that enhances public spaces. Work with the city's designated arts organizations to develop the creative way-finding and signage initiatives throughout the city.*

**Who:** Arts Council of New Orleans; CPC; DPW; New Orleans Downtown Development District

**When:** Medium Term

**Resources:** Staff time